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ECO Council of Ministers Session Held in Quetta

Delegates Arrive for Meeting

BK0502151393 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] The two-day session of the Economic Cooperation Organization's [ECO] Council of Ministers begins in Quetta tomorrow. Prime Minister Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif will inaugurate the conference. The conference is being held at the Balochistan Assembly building. This is for the first time that such a historic conference is being held in Quetta. Foreign ministers of Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan are attending the session. During its deliberations the expanded Economic Cooperation Organization will approve Quetta Action Plan which includes setting up of an ECO shipping line and establishment of a trade and investment bank.

The OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] secretary general, Dr. Hamid al-Gabid, also flew in Quetta today to attend the session of ECO Council of Ministers. At the airport, Dr Hamid al-Gabid was received among others by Balochistan Minister for Information Mir Jan Jamali, Senator Safi Iqbal and other high ranking officials. Talking to PTV [Pakistan Television] correspondent Azhar Masood, the OIC secretary general said:

[Begin recording] The members of ECO are also members of OIC. So they can benefit from the help and assistance from our member states and our institutions, Islamic institutions like IDB [Islamic Development Bank]. [end recording]

The vice president of the Islamic Development Bank, Mr. Abdur Rahman Noor Hasi, who also reached Quetta today to attend the conferennce, said:

[Begin recording] One of the main objectives of the IDB is to enhance cooperation among the members countries. And, we are very happy to establish very close cooperation between the IDB and ECO in order to fulfill one of the major objectives of the IDB. [end recording]

Later, foreign ministers of ECO countries arrived in Quetta in the evening. They included minister of state for foreign affairs of Afghanistan, foreign ministers of Central Asian Republics, foreign minister of Iran, and foreign minister of Turkey. They were received at the airport by the chief minister of Balochistan, Mir Taj Mohammad Jamali; the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo; some federal ministers; and members of the provincial cabinet.

The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Siddique Khan Kanjoo, said that an action plan will be discussed at the conference for an integrated development of the region. PTV correspondent Ziauddin Bhatt interviewed him on the subject:

[Begin recording] [Kanjoo] One of the major important item on the agenda is to develop a communication, may be telecommunication, road communication and railway communication, between the member states to facilitate further interaction between the members of the ECO.

[Bhatt] Will the conference start some sort of action plan to ensure an integrated development of the area?

[Kanjoo] Definitely, we will be working over an action plan. We will be focusing basically on the communication. [end recording]

Iran's Velayati Comments

NC0602092393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati has described the conference of the 10 ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] foreign ministers as significant. Velayati, who was speaking to correspondents this morning before the ECO foreign ministers' first session in Quetta, said: With the efforts and close cooperation of member countries, the ECO can become an important regional organization.

The foreign minister said that among the topics to be discussed at the Quetta conference are: expanding telecommunications, road, railway, and air links; postal facilities; increasing telecommunications possibilities; expanding consular facilities for citizens of member countries; and reducing custom tariffs among member countries.

Velayati, Pakistan Minister Talk

LD0602131593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Iran and Pakistan have emphasized the need to approve practical and positive proposals and to present a realistic time scale to reach the objectives of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO]. According to a Central News Unit report from Quetta, in last night's meeting between our Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati and Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, the Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs, the two parties also stressed the importance of the ECO in expanding the level of multilateral cooperation in the region. They described the utilization of the potential strength of this organization as to the benefit of all member states.

At the meeting, the officials of the two countries further expressed concern over the current situation in Afghanistan and underlined the need for an early end to the clashes. Velayati stressed: Considering the continuing clashes in Afghanistan, the efforts of neighboring countries in solving the problems of that country must continue.

Kashmir, the destruction of Babri Mosque, and Serbian crimes in Bosnia-Hercegovina were also on the agenda of the talks between the two countries' officials.

Pakistan's Sharif Opens Meeting

BK0602125593 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] The two-day session of the council of ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] began in Quetta today to formulate the Quetta Action Plan for promoting cooperation among the member countries in political, economic and commercial fields. The session of the 10-member council was inaugurated by the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, who told the delegates that it was essential to develop a communications network and infrastructure and launch economic ventures within the member countries and within the ECO region as a whole for rapid development. The prime minister said his government had already initiated the development of physical infrastructure and promotion of private enterprise as the engine of economic growth. A network of modern highways was being built which would link Pakistan with Iran, Afghanistan and other ECO countries. The prime minister said the government of Pakistan was making similar endeavors in telecommunication sector and shortly we would be operating a fiber-optic network. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that the adoption of the Quetta Action Plan would be the single-most important decision with specific guidelines for implementation of measures taken by various meetings of the ECO body.

The Iranian foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, has congratulated prime minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, for arranging ECO foreign ministers conference. During a meeting in Quetta today, he also exchanged views with the prime minister on matters of bilateral interest and expressed satisfaction over the pace of mutual cooperation and promotion of fraternal ties.

Asked by newsmen about the recent visit of the Russian leader, Mr. Yeltsin, to India, the prime minister said he would also have detailed discussions with the Russian leadership during his proposed visit to Russia in May next. Pakistan would [words indistinct] agreements of mutual cooperation and apprise him of the stand on different issues. Replying to another question, the prime minister said he would also be visiting Germany in March next.

Sharif Addresses Session

BK0602150193 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] The two-day session of the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] council of ministers began in Quetta today. Inaugurating the session, the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, emphasized the need for joint development efforts among member countries to make the Economic Cooperation Organization one of the most dynamic in the world.

[Begin Nawaz Sharif recording] In the new world scenario that is emerging, it is the economic breakthough that is going to determine largely the future of the Third World, particularly the Muslim countries. A tremendous opportunity has come our way in this region to enable our people to have a taste of decent life. They have suffered too long [and] lived too long in squalor and poverty. That is neither their fate nor their destiny. They deserve a break and quickly too. ECO is the instrument to give that break and the present leadership has a pioneering responsibility to use it to achieve the consummation with skill, speed, and commitment. It is indeed heartening to note that in the short span of two and a half years, the Organization has made significant headway in several areas of economic cooperation. The adoption of Quetta plan of action would be the single most important decision of the session. This plan would lay down specific guidelines for implementation of the decisions taken by the various meetings of the ECO bodies, particularly in the fields of transport and communication, trade, energy, industry, agriculture, and human resource development. For enhancing cooperation in our region, it is essential that we develop communication network, infrastructural projects, and economic ventures within member countries. [end recording]

The prime minister said peaceful socioeconomic progress is essential wherein human and civil rights enshrined in the UN resolutions are protected. International peace, the prime minister said, cannot be ensured by a selective implementation of UN resolutions. The human rights violations and atrocities being perpetrated upon the people of Kashmir are a stain on the existing international system. He called upon the international community to put an end to the massive and systematic human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. The prime minister also highlighted the need for an end to Serbian aggression against Bosnia-Hercegovina, return of the deported Palestinians to their homeland, and an end to human rights abuses against the Turkish community in Cyprus.

The chairman of the council of ministers conference, Mr. Hikmet Cetin, of Turkey declared that the prime minister's speech has been adopted as an official document of the ministerial council meeting.

Talking to newsmen after the inaugural session, the prime minister said ECO has been conceived and planned on the same pattern as the European economy market, which aims to develop the economy of the member states. ECO could also cooperate with the Gulf Cooperation Council, SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], and ASEAN. He said in Davos a number of industrial and financial magnates attending the World Economic Forum have assured investments in Pakistan and shown keen interest in economic development in the Central Asian republics.

In reply to a question, the prime minister said we have evidence to prove India's interference in our internal affairs. The prime minister said Kashmir issue is the main stumbling block in the way of normalization of relations with India. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said continued denial of the right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir has forced the Kashmir people to

revolt against Indian occupation. He expressed confidence that the Kashmiris struggle for the right of self-determination is bound to succeed.

Leaders' Remarks Cited

BK0702120993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, the minister of state for foreign affairs, has urged member-countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] to evolve a clear-cut plan of action for utilizing their vast resources to translate into action their collective desire for a better future. Addressing the ECO ministerial council meeting in Quetta yesterday, he called upon the international community to strive for an early resolution of these problems on the basis of the recognized principles of international law and the UN Charter. He said the ECO has provided an excellent framework for the countries of this region to integrate their policies in order to remove all obstacles in the way of peace and progress.

Addressing the meeting, Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin called upon ECO member-countries to do their best to end disputes and to improve the security situation in various regions, especially in Afghanistan, to ensure progress toward a free market economy. He said Turkey attaches great importance to a just and lasting solution to all regional and international problems, including Kashmir, which is very essential for a stable political and economic environment.

Dr. Hamid al-Gabid, the Islamic Conference Organization's [ICO] secretary general, in his speech, said the ECO has opened ways for cooperation among countries of the region. He said the ECO member-countries are endowed with vast natural resources, including manpower, and by virtue of their Islamic identity, the 350 million people of this region are bound together by common faith, and geographical and historical ties. He said the ICO welcomes this unity and desires close cooperation with the ECO.

Briefing newspersons after the working session of the ECO ministerial council, Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan said the heads of delegations of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Turkey and the ICO secretary general held talks with the minister of state for foreign affairs on bilateral, regional, and international issues of mutual concern. He said the ICO secretary general has disclosed that he will soon contact the Indian Government to send a mission to occupied Kashmir, which will examine the violation of human rights there.

Pakistani Minister Meets Counterparts

BK0602101993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, minister of state for foreign affairs, had separate meetings with the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Iran and the deputy foreign minister of Afghanistan in Quetta. During his meeting with the Afghan deputy foreign minister, he expressed grave concern over the situation in Afghanistan and assured the Afghan minister that Pakistan will make every possible effort to help Afghan citizens in dealing with the situation. The Afghan deputy foreign minister thanked Kanjoo and expressed the hope that the fighting will end.

The minister of state for foreign affairs briefed the Azerbaijani foreign minister on the situation in Kashmir. The Azerbaijani foreign minister said that the Kashmir issue should be resolved according to UN resolutions. At their meeting, the minister of state for foreign affairs and the Iranian foreign minister expressed concern over the ongoing bloodshed in Afghanistan and expressed the hope that the fighting will be over.

Velayati, ICO Head Discuss Bosnia

NC0702073893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati and Hamid al-Gabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, [ICO], discussed the problems of the Islamic world last night on the sidelines of the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, foreign ministers' meeting.

According to our correspondent in Pakistan, during the meeting in Quetta the two sides condemned the Serbian atrocities in Bosnia-Hercegovina and called for a more serious approach to these crimes.

Dr. Velayati stressed the fact that the ICO and the UN Security Council should tackle the Bosnia-Hercegovina issue at a level proportionate to that of this catastrophe and proposed that the ministers of the ICO contact group on Bosnia convene to initiate new moves.

Al-Gabid welcomed this suggestion and promised to follow up on the issue. The ICO secretary general expressed appreciation for Iran's active policy regarding Bosnia-Hercegovina and its dispatch of humanitarian aid to the Muslims there. He called on all Islamic countries to render assistance and support.

The ECO foreign ministers' session commenced its deliberations yesterday in Quetta. Today they are expected to discuss the implementation of plans for expanding cooperation among ECO member countries.

According to an agreement reached among the ECO foreign ministers, they will hold a summit the last week of June in Istanbul.

Quetta Action Plan Adopted

BK0802065593 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] The third session of the council of ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] ended in Quetta last night after unanimously adopting a plan of

action to promote cooperation among member states in a number of fields. The plan of action emphasizes the importance of mobilizing the region's natural and human resources to establish a market-oriented economy for the common welfare. The council of ministers decided to set up a special fund with an initial capital of $300,000 for a feasibility study of the goals envisaged in the Quetta Plan by the year 2000. The founding member states of the ECO—Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey—will provide the capital for the fund and international organizations could be approached for assistance in this connection.

On transport, the council proposed that the committee on transport and communications be convened within two months to prepare a plan for its development. The council directed this committee to prepare a plan which ensures the provision of at least 40 channels of telephones or telefax by 1995 for communication among ECO member states.

On trade, they agreed that member states should endeavor to make trade within the region a major component of their economies. The committee on economic and trade was directed to take steps to end tariff and non-tariff barriers in the ECO region and assess the possibility of widening the present preferential tariff system.

The council noted that wide possibilities exist in the region to generate energy in the form of oil and hydroelectric power and directed the preparation of a plan for laying pipelines and connecting grid stations with each other to meet the member states requirements.

The council recognized the importance of the private sector in further promoting industries and emphasized the need to encourage traders by providing investment facilities with a view to setting up industrial units to fulfill the requirements of the markets of the entire region.

The council directed the committee on agriculture to prepare a comprehensive plan for cooperation in agriculture and agro-based industries.

The council hoped that with the extension of the communication links the local and international tourism will increase. The council asked the national organizations to assess the possibilities of simplifying the visa issuance system and increasing cooperation among travel agencies.

Speaking on behalf of the delegates at the concluding session, Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, said the ECO countries under the guidance of Pakistan Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif will make strides to achieve economic goals set out in the Quetta Action Plan.

Later, Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, Pakistan's minister of state for foreign affairs, who assumed chairmanship of the council from the Turkish foreign minister, thanked the delegates for their cooperation in making the conference successful.

Radio Pakistan's correspondents reports that the two-day session was attended by delegates from Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan and included deputy prime ministers, foreign ministers, foreign economic relations ministers and senior officials.

Session Ends, Velayati Comments

NC0802085093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, foreign ministers' session ended last night in Quetta with the approval of joint economic plans. [passage omitted]

The participants decided that Iran will be the venue for the next ECO ministerial council in Dey next year [month beginning 22 December 1993].

After the conference concluded, Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati spoke to correspondents and described the results of the Quetta session as important. He also answered various questions from correspondents. Our Islamabad correspondent Khameneh, who had gone to Quetta to cover the conference, has sent a report on the major parts of Velayati's news conference:

[Begin Khameneh recording] Velayati described rumors about a rivalry between Iran and Turkey over leadership of the ECO as baseless, and added: The objective of the member countries is to cooperate within the framework of the organization, and all member countries will benefit from good relations.

In answer to a question on Iran's non-adherence to the Saudi peace plan on Afghanistan, which Pakistan has approved, Velayati said: Iran is in the process of holding a tripartite conference comprising Iran, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia on this issue. He added: If Saudi Arabia has a peace plan for ending the conflicts in Afghanistan, Iran will support this plan.

The foreign minister then referred to rumors about Iran's involvement in the recent incidents in Turkey and stated that in a contact he held with the Turkish foreign minister on Saturday [6 February], the latter said that he does not think the Iranian Government was involved in these incidents. [end recording]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Meets Kuwaiti, Somali Officials

NC0602150293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today met with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who is currently visiting Cairo. The two discussed

recent developments in the Gulf and the Arab League's efforts to resolve the issue of Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq.

Following the meeting, Shaykh al-Sabah said that there is no hope for improved ties between Kuwait and Iraq so long as Saddam Husayn is in power. Kuwait, he added, is not hostile toward the Iraqi people but the Iraqi regime. The Kuwaiti foreign minister said that the current efforts to clear the atmosphere should not be rushed. He pointed out that the Iraqi regime continues to make unfounded claims concerning Kuwait.

On the possibility of reconciling Kuwait with the countries that supported Iraq during the Gulf war, Shaykh al-Sabah said that once these countries admit their fault, there will be hope for improving relations with them.

Shaykh al-Sabah said that he and Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid reviewed the situation in the Gulf region, particularly on Iraqi-Kuwaiti borders. Shaykh al-Sabah said that he briefed President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the situation. We hope that the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq will be resolved through the efforts of the Arab League secretary general and his envoy Rashid Idris, the Kuwaiti official added.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today met Abdulle Sheikh Ismail, Somali state minister for foreign affairs, and discussed with him the latest developments in Somalia and the current efforts to hold a national reconciliation conference next month in Addis Ababa.

Islamic Affairs

Iran's OIC Envoy, Saudi Counterpart Meet

LD0702145093 Tehran IRNA in English 1249 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Feb. 7, IRNA—Iran's permanent representative to the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Sabah Zanganeh conveyed a message from Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to his Saudi counterpart Sa'ud al-Faysal.

In a meeting held between the two in Riyadh on Saturday [6 February], the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina (B-H), results of the Geneva peace negotiations, the London conference as well as international cooperation between Tehran and Riyadh particularly at the OIC were discussed. The two sides also underlined the need for more active presence of the Islamic countries specially the OIC contact group at the United Nations.

The current problems faced by the OIC's secretariat, Iran's active presence at the OIC, the current situation in the former Soviet Republics and coordination between the stances of Tehran and Riyadh in the conference were also among the issues discussed.

Faysal agreed with Zanganeh on the issues discussed and called for coordination between Tehran and Riyadh regarding all important issues, especially on the crisis in Bosnia.

ICO To Send Fact-Finding Mission on Kashmir

BK0802045893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Mr. Hamid al-Gabid, Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] secretary general, has said that an ICO fact-finding mission on Kashmir will visit Pakistan in the middle of this month. The mission would also visit occupied Kashmir if allowed by the Indian Government. He was talking to newsmen at Islamabad Airport before leaving for Jedda.

The ICO secretary general said the Islamic foreign ministers conference will be held in Karachi from the 25th to the 29th April for the implementation of the resolutions of the sixth Islamic summit.

About the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] meeting in Quetta, he said the ICO is ready for cooperation with the ECO in various fields.

Earlier, the ICO secretary general met with Akram Zaki, secretary general for foreign affairs, in Islamabad. Akram Zaki apprised Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid about the preparations being made for the 21st Islamic foreign ministers conference.

North African Fundamentalists Deny Iran Link

PM0802101593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Feb 93 p 4

[Jamal Khashuqji report: "Salvation Front and Ennahda Deny Participation in Tehran Meetings"]

[Text] Jeddah, Algiers, AL-HAYAH—Two senior officials from the outlawed Algerian "Islamic Salvation Front" [FIS] and Tunisian "Ennahda" movement have denied their movements' participation in a meeting which the independent AL-WATAN newspaper said yesterday was being held in Iran by hard-line Islamists to prepare plans to export fundamentalism to Algeria and Egypt.

The newspaper had pointed out that Cheik Rabeh Kebir, spokesman for the FIS who is in exile in Europe, was heading the Algerian delegation to the Tehran meetings, in which some 2,500 people are taking part. It added that the mullahs are preparing for a big offensive against Algeria and Egypt, to be launched soon along the lines of the series of attacks to which Turkey was exposed recently."

AL-WATAN did not reveal the source of its report, but it is known for its broad knowledge of security affairs.

AL-WATAN said that the Iranian mullahs are financing fundamentalists and spending $500 million a year in this connection, and that they are supplying Algeria's fundamentalists with arms.

In Jeddah, two leaders from North Africa's biggest Islamic movements denied that they could have gone to Iran to participate in the meeting referred to by Algeria's AL-WATAN.

Cheik Rabeh Kebir told AL-HAYAH over the telephone from his residence in Frankfurt (Germany) that "the FIS knows nothing about the alleged meeting being held in Tehran. Nor did it send anyone to represent it there in the celebrations marking the Iranian Islamic revolution's victory."

Asked about AL-WATAN's report about his visit to Iran, Kebir said: "The report is an attempt to give the impression that we receive support from Iran. The truth is that the FIS has received support only from its own Algerian people."

As for Cheik Rachid Ghannouchi, whom AL-HAYAH contacted in London, he said that he has not left the British capital for over a year. He said: "We feel that security organs are trying to distort the image of the Islamic movement and to give the impression that there is international fundamentalism, to make people frightened of it, and to portray it as a dangerous specter." Ghannouchi, who leads the outlawed Tunisian Islamic "Ennahda" movement from exile, added: "We sent no one to Tehran, nor do we have any representative there. So how can some newspapers allege that fundamentalist leaders in North Africa are holding a meeting to discuss their next move without the participation of the main movements repeesenting the strong Islamic tendency in North Africa, which lead opposition there." He stressed that he does not hold a Sudanese passport.

Palestinian Affairs

Abu-Sharif Says Talks To Resume After Ramadan

T.60502151793 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 5 Feb 93 pp 1, 12

[Excerpt] Lausanne, Switzerland—AFP—Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, told Swiss Radio yesterday that the Middle East peace talks will be resumed after Ramadan even if a comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian deportees' problem is not reached.

In a telephone conversation with Swiss Radio, Abu-Sharif said that the talks will be resumed after Ramadan even without the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 799 calling for the immediate repatriation of all the deportees. He said that the PLO has adopted a decision on this with a majority of votes.

Abu-Sharif did not mention a specific date but reiterated that the talks will take place after Ramadan, which is expected to begin between 22 and 24 February in accordance with the appearance of the moon in various countries.

Abu-Sharif also said that no consensus has been achieved on the political approach which the PLO should adopt because we have opponents like Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which is against the peace process. They are extremists, just like the Israeli extremist organizations. [passage omitted]

Abu-Sharif Denies Remarks

JN0502173993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] The PLO today considered that the resumption of Palestinian participation in the bilateral and multilateral [Arab-Israeli peace] talks is contingent on the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution [799], the return of all the deportees, the cancellation of the deportation policy, and respect for international charters and conventions.

This emphasis on the Palestinian stand was made today by the Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, which cited an official spokesman's statement on remarks made to Swiss radio by Bassam Abu-Sharif yesterday. The Palestinian spokesman considered that Abu-Sharif's remarks do not represent the policy of the PLO and its leadership, and that these remarks harm PLO policy.

Western news agencies today cited Bassam Abu-Sharif as saying that the peace talks will resume after the month of Ramadan [approximately 23 February to 23 March], even if the deportee issue is not solved.

In a cable received by our radio, Abu-Sharif denied the AFP version of his remarks to Swiss radio. Abu-Sharif said the text of the radio interview is recorded and that he will sue AFP for its fabrication, as he put it.

PLO Spokesman Refutes Remarks

JN0602194593 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Statement by "official Palestinian spokesman" in Tunis responding to remarks by Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, that Arab-Israeli peace talks will continue even if the Palestinian deportee issue is not settled; date not given]

[Text] The remarks by brother Bassam Abu-Sharif do not represent the Palestinian position at all; he expresses neither the policy of the PLO nor its leadership, and has no right and has not been authorized to speak in the name of the organization. The information he gave has no basis in truth. Such stances only do a disservice to PLO policies and can only throw certain media organs into confusion.

The PLO leadership will, in the future, take practical measures to guard against such personal transgressions. The PLO's stand is based on the decision of its leadership and a united national and popular Palestinian position calling for the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799 envisaging the immediate repatriation of all the expellees. The PLO calls on the Security Council to take firm measures toward the

enforcement of the resolution, and reiterates that [Palestinian] participation in the bilateral and multilateral tracks of the peace process is linked to the implementation of the Council resolution, return of all the deportees, the annulment of the deportation tactic, and respect for international conventions and legitimacy.

'Arafat on Peace Process, Baghdad Visit

LD0502195093 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] reiterated that peace in the Middle East is not only a Palestinian demand but also an Arab and international one. At a meeting with members of the Palestine National Council in Amman yesterday, brother President Abu-'Ammar added that the interests of all peoples in the region, Europe, and the world at large will be in jeopardy unless peace is brought to our region.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar said: We are heading toward peace at full steam despite the outcome of negotiations which is down to nothing as far as the Palestinian side is concerned. He emphasized that he holds Rabin responsible for the slow progress toward a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar called on the United Nations to cease using double standards when applying its resolutions and stressed the need for implementation of Security Council Resolution 799 which stipulates the prompt return of the deportees to their homeland. He asked when the United Nations will stop using double standards and pointed out that if it continues on its present course, it will make the peoples of the world question its future as a protector of world peace. Brother President Abu-'Ammar described his visit to Baghdad as useful and successful and said that it came within the framework of restoring Arab solidarity in facing up to the present and future challenges of the Arab nation.

Brother Abu-'Ammar said that our nation is facing a situation of life and death and he called for inter-Arab dialogue to remove any disagreements, not only for the sake of our present but also for that of our children's future which is threatened by the New World Order.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar reiterated the PLO's and the Palestinian people's keenness on inter-Arab reconciliation and stressed that his visit to Iraq took place within that framework. He said: We presented to President Saddam Husayn a report on the latest developments of the Middle East peace process. He also said that President Saddam Husayn had encouraged him to continue the peace process.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar also emphasized that the wounds of the Gulf war and its ensuing divisions are being healed, God willing. He said that his visit to Iraq came as part of that grand objective needed by the peoples of the Arab nation now more than ever before. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Urges U.S. Dialogue With Iraq, Libya

JN0602082593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Feb 93 pp 1, 5

[By Maryam M. Shahin, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpt] Amman—Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Amman Friday [5 February] after urging the West to reconsider its stand vis-a-vis Iraq and Libya after returning from his second post-war meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in which he is believed to have discussed Arab reconsiliation efforts.

"I advise that (the U.S.) open a dialogue with our brothers in Iraq and our brothers in Libya," said the PLO chairman shortly after a 90-minute meeting on Thursday with His Majesty King Husayn in which the two Arab leaders discussed ways and means to create framework for "reconciliation talks" between different pro- and anti-Iraq groups in the Arab World.

King Husayn and Mr. 'Arafat also discussed the future of the Middle East peace process in light of the crisis sparked by Israel's Dec. 17 expulsion of nearly 400 Palestinians who remain stranded in South Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Message Reaffirms Stance on Talks

TA0502170293 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 5 Feb 93 pp 1, 7

[Text] Hebron—Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian team to the peace talks, sent a message Wednesday [3 February] evening to the U.S. secretary of state in which he informed the secretary of the Palestinian position on resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Sources in Jerusalem close to the Palestinian delegation have said that al-Husayni conveyed to the U.S. secretary of state the Palestinians' refusal to resume the talks before the return of all the deportees to their homes in implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799. Al-Husayni also expressed the Palestinian side's surprise and concern over the Israeli-U.S. deal, epitomized by Israel's agreement to return one-fourth of the deportees and reduce the deportation period by half for the others in return for the U.S. Administration's opposition to any resolution demanding the imposition of sanctions against Israel that might be presented to the Security Council.

[A page 1 report in Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic on 5 February says: "U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher phoned Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation's steering committee, at 0200 yesterday and informed him that the multilateral talks have been postponed to an undetermined date."

"Al-Husayni left Jerusalem yesterday morning for Romania via Amman."]

Al-Husayni on Israeli Offer, U.S. Reaction

NC0502203693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1916 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory committee to the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, by unidentified correspondent on the "Talking Newsreel" program; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] You have probably followed up developments in the Palestinian deportees issue. The most prominent development was Israel's agreement to allow 100 or more deportees to return as a partial solution. There are at the same time Arab contacts, led by Egypt, with the parties involved in this issue. How do you view these recent developments?

[Al-Husayni] First there is a clear and very frank Security Council resolution calling for the immediate return of the deportees and calling the deportation decision itself illegal. This is Resolution 799. We are amazed to see certain parties resorting to attempts to find a way out of and circumvent this resolution, divide and split it, and hence deviate from its text. We were expecting Israel to abide by the Security Council resolution and to start the process of returning the deportees on the basis of Resolution 799. We were not expecting a reduction of the period or a piecemeal return of the deportees.

[Correspondent] Do you agree with the view that this development is a recognition on the part of Israel that this issue must be resolved and that these deportees must return home as a principal step toward the next round of the peace negotiations?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that it is more of a solution for Rabin's domestic difficulties and the problems he is facing as a result of this decision that violates all the rules of law than a solution to the deportees issue or the issue of peace and the peace process. It is an attempt to save Rabin from a specific position that is embarrassing him domestically and externally. He is in a position where he can tell his people that he has not retreated, that he has carried out the deportation, and it remains legal, while simultaneously telling the world: I have retreated and made concessions. These are not in fact concessions, because the basic and principled issue is this: Has Israel responded to Resolution 799, which bans the policy of deportation, or not? From what we have heard so far, this point has not been clarified yet.

[Correspondent] From your point of view, do you agree that this step is a recognition on the part of Israel that these deportees' return is inevitable?

[Al-Husayni] Israel has faced many problems because of this issue. For example, Rabin said at the beginning that he deported them for two years. If he reduces the term to one year, he does not touch the principled issue, namely the issue of the forceful deportation.

[Correspondent] But in this way, they are admitting the need for their return, or letting part of them return.

[Al-Husayni] They recognize the difficult position they have created but they have not so far admitted that what they have done was illegal. What is necessary is for Israel not to repeat such an action and [words indistinct] unless they do so as part of complete readiness to implement Resolution 799. Whether the implementation is carried out within two days or two months is something else. What is basically required is that this step should be based on Israeli recognition of and readiness to comply with Resolution 799.

[Correspondent] What is your view of the U.S. reaction before we talk about Arab contacts through Egypt? The U.S. State Department reaction says that this is a positive development. What is your opinion?

[Al-Husayni] There has been no compliance with the clauses of Resolution 799. I notice that the United States follows and scrupulously implements Security Council resolutions to the letter. If the United States is now telling me let us find a compromise for Resolution 799, will it then come in the future to tell me let us find a compromise to Resolution 242, a compromise to Resolution 338, a compromise to the letter of invitation, and a compromise to the principle of land for peace? All these principles on which the peace process is based are in fact based on resolutions that are compromises. To take this compromise and derive from it a new compromise is tantamount to destroying the basis of the peace process.

[Correspondent] What hopes do you have in the new U.S. Administration and the next round of the peace talks?

[Al-Husayni] We hope that the U.S. stand will take into account the principled issues I have just mentioned and hence come to the Middle East with the right steps and not with crooked ones.

[Correspondent] How do you view the Arab stand in general on this issue?

[Al-Husayni] The Arab stand rejects this decision and action and backs the implementation of Resolution 799. We hope that this stand will remain firm.

[Correspondent] We hope that contacts with and pressures on Israel will continue.

[Al-Husayni] God willing. This is what in fact we want and what we need.

'Abd-Rabbuh Statement on U.S.-Israeli 'Deal'

JN0502201993 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1814 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has made the following statement:

The statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Rabin before the Israeli Knesset confirm that the U.S.-Israeli package deal on deportees contravenes the content of the Security Council resolution [799]. These statements belie the remarks made by U.S. sources to the effect that this deal is a step in the direction of implementing the resolution—remarks made in the course of their endeavors to promote this deal.

Rabin said that the package deal Israel concluded with the United States does not undermine the principle of deportations, maintaining that deportations will continue to be carried out in the future. That is, despite its objection to deportations in principle, the United States has practically accepted the Israeli measure, which involved a large-scale and unprecedented deportation move. The statements made by Rabin in the course of his efforts to explain the objectives and bases of this deal clearly show the dangerous violation of Resolution 799, which condemned deportations as a measure that contravenes the Fourth Geneva Convention and demanded the immediate repatriation of all deportees.

The inherent dangers in Rabin's statements lie in the fact that the deal concluded with the United States has legalized Israel's evasion of the implementation of Security Council resolutions and endorsed future deportations as well.

By all standards, the endorsement of this deal by the United States is a serious action. This is because this endorsement grants Israel, at present and in the future, the opportunity to enjoy permanent U.S. protection while it violates Security Council resolutions, the [Fourth] Geneva Convention, and human rights. One of the dangers inherent in this deal is that it was concluded in the absence of the Security Council, even though the latter passed an unequivocally clear resolution in this regard, and also in the absence of the Palestinian side, which is the victim in this crime.

Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh added: The statements made by Rabin show the dangers posed to the peace process by this deal, since by agreeing to this deal, the United States has legitimized and endorsed deportations as a fait accompli. Furthermore, the danger here also lies in the fact that the United States and Israel have given themselves the right to exclusively interpret the Security Council resolutions in a manner that runs counter to their content and text, a development which could have negative repercussions on Resolution 242, which constitutes the basis of the peace process.

We urge the United States to revoke the deal. Similarly, we urge the Security Council to meet immediately to take firm measures, such as the setting up of a binding timetable for the repatriation of all deportees, particularly after the UN secretary general has affirmed that the deal does not meet all requirements of the Security Council resolution.

This position of ours is based on concern for international legitimacy, and also for ensuring respect for the rules governing the peace process. This is because if such respect were to be denied, the peace process would be robbed of all the foundations on which it was based. Consequently, this would kill the ability to continue the peace process.

UN Chief Informed of PLO Boycott of Talks

JN0502204393 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1814 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Brother Nasir al-Qudwah, Palestinian representative to the United Nations, has informed UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali of the PLO's decision not to take part in any meetings of the peace process unless the deportation issue is settled in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolution [799].

This decision was communicated to the UN chief during a meeting at UN Headquarters between brother al-Qudwah and the UN secretary general. Attending the talks for the world body were (?Jimmy Kim Meadow So) and Mrs. (?Vet Mai).

During the meeting, the Palestinian UN delegate reviewed with the UN chief the latest developments pertaining to the deportations, as well as their repercussions on the regional peace process. He also thanked the UN secretary general for his position on this issue, particularly for the report he submitted to the Security Council in this regard.

For his part, the UN secretary general reiterated his firm position on the issue, which is contained in the report he submitted to the Security Council on Israel's deportations.

Envoy Denies PLO Accepted Offer on Deportees

NC0702163993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—Palestinian ambassador to Egypt Sa'id Kamal has denied that the PLO has accepted the Israeli proposal to allow some deportees to return to the occupied territories.

Kamal was responding to a report broadcast by Moscow radio in its English language newscast alleging that in accordance with the Israeli proposal 100 deportees will be returned in the next few days while the others will be allowed to return gradually over a one-year period.

'Ashrawi Leaves Amman for U.S. Visit 6 Feb

JN0702092093 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Feb 93 p 26

[Text] Amman—Dr Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokesman for the Palestinian negotiating delegation, left for Washington yesterday after receiving an official invitation from the U.S. Administration to hold talks on the Middle East peace process. This will be the first Palestinian-U.S. meeting after President Clinton's assumption of power.

Palestinian sources in Amman said that during her visit Dr. 'Ashrawi will meet with President Bill Clinton, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and senior State Department officials. The sources added that the U.S. Administration will be notified that the Palestinian side insists on suspending its participation in the negotiations until the return home of all the deportees in Marj al-Zuhur, and that the Palestinian side totally rejects the U.S.-Israeli deal in this regard.

Dr. 'Ashrawi arrived in Amman yesterday morning and left immediately for Queen Alia International Airport to catch the plane departing for Washington.

U.S Reportedly Gives Pledge on Deportees

JN0802093093 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Feb 93 p 25

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y—Palestinian sources have revealed an American pledge to end the issue of deportees by returning them to their homeland for humanitarian reasons. A Palestinian negotiator, who preferred anonymity, told AL-RA'Y that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat sent two messages to U.S. President Bill Clinton asking him to find a satisfactory solution to the deportees issue in order to pave the way for the negotiations in Washington and resumption of the Palestinian-American dialogue.

The Palestinian negotiator said: The American response came through Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the Palestinian Advisory Council, toward the end of last week and five hours after sending the two messages. The Palestinian negotiator added: Al-Husayni came to Amman last Thursday to meet President 'Arafat in order to inform him of the content of the American response to the two Palestinian messages.

Palestinian sources noted that President 'Arafat had asked the U.S. Administration in his two messages to resume the Palestinian-American dialogue with a Palestinian delegation from inside and outside the occupied territory in Jerusalem, Amman, or Cairo.

The Palestinian sources said: It appears that the American stand on this was flexible, but still incomplete. For this reason, the Palestinian sources added, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokesman for the Palestinian delegation, left for Washington the day before yesterday.

The Palestinian sources said that the Americans' disregard of the meeting between PLO representative in New York Nasir al-Qudwah and UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali encouraged the Palestinian president to send messages to the U.S. Administration and to President Clinton in particular.

The source noted that the negotiations did not and will not stop since it is not a condition that they take place at the negotiating table in Washington. The source added that the visit to Washington by Hanan 'Ashrawi, and before her, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, as well as al-Husayni's departure for Romania fall within this framework.

Another Palestinian negotiator said that Rubinstein, head of the Israeli negotiating team, and Dani Rothschild, the coordinator of the territories affairs, are most likely visiting Washington for that purpose. The Palestinian negotiator neither denied nor confirmed that Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating team—who pledged not to resume negotiations while the policy of deportation continues—will participate in these meetings.

Palestinian sources said that Romania, which al-Husayni has been visiting for two days now, played an important role in the indirect dialogues between the PLO and the Israeli Government.

President 'Arafat's close officials said that 'Arafat was very pleased with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's support for him and with his call for continuing the peace process.

Peace Delegates Comment on Israeli Decision

NC0602183093 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 4 Feb 93 p 5

[Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks; Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the Palestinian delegation's official spokeswoman; Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory committee to the Palestinian delegation; and Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the delegation, by AL-AHRAM correspondent in Israel Amirah Hasan; date and place not given]

[Text] [Hasan] Resolution 799 provides for the return of all the deportees. But the recent decision allows the return of just 100 deportees. Do we know whether any of the clauses of Resolution 799 provide for this?

['Urayqat] Rabin has placed us, as a Palestinian delegation, in an embarrassing and difficult position. He made a political decision that was not at all realistic and that showed how politically blind the Israeli Government has become. Our position is like that of one placed at the top of a tree who is asked to come down without a ladder. If he does, he will break his neck. The recent decision is not enough. I expected Rabin to agree to the return of all the deportees so that we could return to the negotiating table. He would have thus taken a bold and decisive step. I believe that all the problems can be solved at the negotiating table.

[Hasan] How do you view the U.S. stand on the recent Israeli decision to let two-thirds [as published] of the deportees return?

['Urayqat] The world can say what it likes, particularly as the United States voted for Resolution 799. All the countries of the Security Council voted for the resolution. But the strange thing is this manipulation and circumvention of the resolution. What is required is the return of all the deportees.

[Hasan] Will the Palestinian delegation return to the negotiating table?

['Urayqat] I do not think Rabin's recent decision opened the doors for the peace process. The deportation decision closed the doors and the return of all the deportees is the way to resume negotiations.

[Hasan] How do you view Egypt's role in resolving the deportees issue?

['Urayqat] I was a member of the Palestinian delegation that participated in the meetings of the cordon states foreign ministers in Cairo. The Egyptian stand is clear and principled. It supports Resolution 799. Egypt does not accept circumvention or manipulation of this resolution. This is Egypt's strong stand.

A joint Arab stand was taken in Cairo, namely to work for the full and immediate safe return of the deportees to their homeland.

[Hasan] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation, what do you say about the recent decision?

['Ashrawi] Regarding my view of the U.S.-Israeli deal, it is quite obvious that it is a mere circumvention of Security Council Resolution 799 and a way to evade implementation. It is also quite obvious that it does not tackle the core of the problem, namely the illegality of the deportation. The deal also commits Israel to implement the Security Council resolution, which means absolving it from these resolutions in future. [sentence as published]

The peace process is based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Who will guarantee for us that Israel will implement these two resolutions? Or will it try to strike a deal with the United States? I believe that the recent step is an attempt to prevent the Security Council from holding a meeting and imposing sanctions either in favor of or against Israel to make it comply and implement Resolution 799.

[Hasan] Is this deal the end of the road for the question of the deportees?

['Ashrawi] The question of the deportees is open and the crisis still exists. An obstacle to peace still exists as well. What happened is a deal between the United States and Israel and the Palestinians had nothing to do with it. We believe that the main issue at hand is the illegality of deportation. Compliance with the Security Council resolutions is the issue on which any solution must be based.

[Hasan] Will the Palestinian delegation return to the negotiating table?

['Ashrawi] The Palestinian delegation will not return to the talks so long as this obstacles exists.

[Hasan] We turn now to Faysal al-Husayni.

[Al-Husayni] We do not see in this U.S.-Israeli deal an implementation of Resolution 799 as much as an attempt to circumvent the resolution and blunt the deportation decision. It obviously does not comply with or implement Resolution 799, which is regrettable.

[Hasan] Will the Palestinian delegation return to the negotiating table?

[Al-Husayni] Eliminating the principle of expulsion from Israeli thinking is something that is still not clear and is out of the question, judging by what we hear from the Israelis. The deportation decision must be revoked and we have to make sure that Israel will not have the right to resort to it in the future. But if the purpose of this decision or this deal is to legitimize expulsion along with certain other measures, this is very serious.

[Hasan] In your opinion, has the file of the deportees at the Security Council been closed?

[Al-Husayni] The fact is that this topic must be debated again because the issue is not over yet. We believe that Resolution 799 stipulates that Israel return all the deportees immediately. In my opinion, a piecemeal solution involving the return of one-third of the deportees now and the rest in a year is nothing but an attempt to circumvent, not implement, this resolution.

[Hasan] How do you assess the Egyptian efforts to resolve the problem of the deportees?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that the Egyptian efforts must continue to push the issue of the deportees, provided there is at least a timetable for the deportees to return to their homeland.

[Hasan] Did you meet with Shim'on Peres two weeks ago?

[Al-Husayni] They said that I met Rabin in 1989 and now they say that I met Peres, but it is not true.

[Hasan] Once more I ask you: Are you ready to resume the peace talks or not?

[Al-Husayni] (Hasan remarks that he is trying to evade answering) We are waiting for a message from the Americans explaining their position. We do not believe that their theoretical remarks that this deal is in line with Resolution 799 are adequate. We want an explanation about how it is in line and on what basis they say so.

[Hasan] I turn now to Palestinian delegation member Ghassan al-Khatib.

[Al-Khatib] In my view, the proposed Israeli solution is unacceptable because the required solution is clear, known, and backed by the international community; that is, Resolution 799. This resolution is indivisible; either it will be respected or not.

[Hasan] Will the Palestinian delegation return to the peace talks?

[Al-Khatib] The Palestinian delegation will return to the peace talks only if the issue of the deportees is resolved in accordance with Resolution 799. This is the decision of

the Palestinian delegation and leadership and it has been made clear. Israel's failure to comply with Resolution 799 is now the obstacle to the talks. I hope the international pressure will continue so that the international resolutions can be honored and Israel will comply with the text of the resolution.

[Hasan] How do you assess the Egyptian role in the deportation issue?

[Al-Khatib] Egypt's position has been very clear regarding the question of the deportees and it contributed to issuing Resolution 799. We hope the Egyptian efforts will continue at the Security Council to secure the return of all the deportees.

Talks Delegate on Upcoming Christopher Visit

NC0602084193 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy chairman of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, in Jerusalem, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Now that bilateral and multilateral talks between the Arabs and Israel have been postponed to a date to be determined this April, what are the Palestinian moves at present?

['Urayqat] As Palestinians and Arabs, we would have liked the peace process to continue so that we could do our utmost to find solutions for all our problems at the negotiating table. The region and all its people urgently need peace. Regrettably enough, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin opted to win the domestic battle at the expense of the peace process. Since the mass deportation of the 413 Palestinians, we have reiterated our full commitment to the peace process. We said, however, that the deportation constituted an obstacle which, as a Palestinian delegation, we could not ignore. We took action. We held the first meeting of the cordon states in Cairo at Egypt's invitation and a second meeting was held in Cairo—attended by most Arab foreign ministers—for the first time since the Gulf crisis. We then made contacts with the UN Security Council, European states, and others.

We now have an international resolution; there is world consensus on the need to return the deportees so that the parties involved can resume the peace process. Our efforts depend on Arab diplomacy and international legitimacy. We want the deportees to return immediately so we can resume the peace process. This sums up what we have done so far. Unfortunately, the Israeli Government still indulges in maneuvers, viewing itself as a state above the law; a state that has rights and no duties.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will visit the region. Have you made certain preparations, or rather, do you have certain proposals to present to him during his visit?

['Urayqat] Throughout the post-deportation period, we have been in daily contact with the new U.S. Administration through U.S. representatives in Jerusalem as well as through direct contacts with the State Department. Faysal al-Husayni [head of the Advisory Committee to the Palestinian delegation] received a telephone call from Christopher the day before yesterday. We said that we view the United States not as the only superpower or a permanent Security Council member, but as the principle sponsor of the peace conference. We talked to them about the need for Israel to comply with international legitimacy, because the peace process in which we are involved is based essentially on Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. We told them that any attempt to bargain on the Security Council resolutions would set a serious precedent. If we say that 25 percent of Resolution 799 is accepted today, how can we guarantee that other agreements will not force us to accept 32 percent of Resolution 242 or 47 percent of 425 tomorrow? We want the United States, as the conference sponsor, to force Israel to comply with international legitimacy and to work toward returning all the deportees, because any bargaining in this connection would set a serious precedent and reflect negatively on the peace process. This is the program we are preparing for Christopher. Until he comes, we will maintain contacts in this connection with the U.S. Administration.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What will happen if a date is set for resuming the next round of Arab-Israeli talks without fully resolving the deportees issue?

['Urayqat] The U.S. decision to postpone the multilateral talks on economic and armament issues—which were due to begin on 9 February—aimed at giving diplomatic efforts a chance. The Americans are fully aware that the Palestinian stand is not a matter of commitment or noncommitment to the peace process. There is full commitment. But as long as the deportation issue persists, we will be totally unable to maintain the peace process. From now until April, it is certain that no rounds of bilateral or multilateral negotiations will be held.

I believe that U.S. and Egyptian diplomatic efforts also will play an effective and essential role in returning all the deportees so that all the parties can participate in and continue the peace process, and accordingly introduce the region to the new era. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Higher State Council Extends State of Emergency

LD0702172993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] The Higher State Council met under Ali Kafi's chairmanship today. Following examination of the security situation, the Council decided to extend the powers of the provisions of presidential decree 92/44, dated 9 February 1992, which covers the state of emergency. The Council then undertook a comprehensive examination of foreign policy, particularly at the regional level. The council continued examination of its political program and highlighted the prospects of its action in light of the speech delivered by Ali Kafi on 14 Januray 1993.

Former Chief of Staff Begins Corruption Trial

LD0602165393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The trial of retired Major General Mostafa Beloucif began at the Military Court in Blida. He is accused of transferring and squandering public funds, as well as the misuse of funds and equipment belonging to the People's National Army. The trial proceedings are being held in public. Mohsen Slimani has been following this morning's procedures:

[Begin Slimani recording] General Prosecutor (Major Boubkhari) requested to hold the trial behind closed doors because the case might jeopardize public order. However, following an examination of the request—as well as a request by the defense that the trial should be held in public since the press had reported the file prepared by a number of generals—the Court president rejected the public prosecutor's request, ordering that the Beloucif's trial should be held in public. [passage omitted]

The charges against him in the first case, which was investigated in 1990, revolved around a number of acts carried out by Beloucif, who was a high-ranking officer between 1981 and 1983, when he ordered the Ministry of Defense's director of finance to spend an amount estimated at 529 million dinars to build a villa and three other adjacent houses at his residence in Annaba. Beloucif justified the building of such a villa by the fact that his appointment to the post of secretary general of the Ministry of Defense had forced him—in coordination with the rest of the Chief of Staff Command—to have five guards whom he had to find room for in his house. The president of the Court thought such a reason was not enough and accused Beloucif of using his authority to spend 529 million dinars to build his private house.

Beloucif defended himself, however, by asserting that he did not act alone. He acted following an agreement between himself and the former defense minister and president of the Republic, who was aware that the money was being spent from the Army fund in order to build houses for the guards, he added. Beloucif also focused upon another point in case, that fact he was not the first and the only person who built his own house from the treasury of the Army.

Despite the rejection of such a justification by the president of the Court, Beloucif repeatedly asserted during the morning's session that others also did the same thing and built houses from the treasury, particularly in his case where the construction was carried out, as Beloucif affirms, under the supervision of the 5th Military Region in Constantine.

Nevertheless, the president of the Court viewed Beloucif as a person who had influence and authority because he was the de facto defense minister, and he did not stop others from using the Army funds for the building of their own villas; nor did he stop others from using other people's sons as guards. The Court challenged Beloucif's assertions by referring to documents that prove the various acts of embezzlement of national currency committed by the accused, the money spent on furnishing and home improvements to his house in El-Biar and Annaba, for example.

From the Court's proceedings, as well as from Beloucif's justifications based upon his defense that money was spent from the Army treasury following the agreement of the presidency in place at the time, it looks like the trial may proceed in such a way that the defense—which has yet to make its plea—will be prompted to demand that former President Bendjedid be asked to testify. It is noteworthy to point out, however, that the name of the former president of the Republic was not on the list of witnesses. We noticed, however, that among the main witnesses was the second accused Mohamed Habri, former director of the Army treasury; and Major General Norddine Benkourtbi, who was in charge of the presidency's protocol during the regime of Chadli Bendjedid. [end recording]

Security Hunts Killers of Kidnapped Policemen

LD0602202993 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] A statement for the General Directorate of National Security said that on the night of 22 January, an armed terrorist group kidnapped three people near their homes at the Eucalyptus District, among them a security policeman, and two urban policemen at the security services.

The terrorist group was in a vehicle and took the kidnapped persons in the direction of an unknown destination. Their bodies were found in the El Arab region the day before yesterday.

The ages of the three victims range between 75 years for the first one, father of eight children, 36 for the second one, a father of two children, and 29 for the third person, married and father of one child. The three victims were tortured in an ugly manner before they were slaughtered.

Information from the investigation which has been opened for this case points out that the leader of the criminals' group committed this crime in revenge for the arrest of one of his followers Kebaili, also named Said, who is alleged to have been arrested and then killed by the police.

The statement of the National Directorate of National Security adds that this person had actually been arrested for involvement in crimes in the El Arba and Baraki region, and that he is currently under preventive detention. The perpetrators of these abominable crimes are now the subject of a search by the security forces, as the statement of the General Directorate of National Security notes in conclusion.

'Terrorists' Kill Gendarmerie Officer in Tissemsilt

LD0702140793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] The National Gendarmerie Command has announced the assassination of Warrant Officer Mohamed Abdaoui, commander of the gendarmerie unit of the Lazharia municipality, in the province of Tissemsilt yesterday. Three terrorists armed with automatic pistols opened fire on the victim twice and killed him as he was leaving the municipal council headquarters.

According to an APS report quoting the National Gendarmerie Command, the three terrorists fled in a car which headed for Shlaf. The search for them continues.

Report Releases Multiple Rate of Exchange System

LD0802111293 Algiers APS in English 1041 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Algiers, 08/02/93 (APS)—The system of the multiple rates of change, provided in the government working programme, must be put into practice by the beginning of the second semester 1993.

Three scenarios are being examined at the present time by the interministerial committee mainly composed of ministries delegate to treasury, budget and trade as well as the Bank of Algeria, the same source indicated.

Whatever the scenario, well informed sources said to the APS, it is to ensure a combination or an adequation between the level of rates of exchange and spheres of activities on which different rates will be applied.

This system, which will be carried out during a transitional period of three years, will be rather a technical instrument which will aim at a stabilization in a short term of the parity of the dinar in order to put an end or to limit the monetary anarchy which penalizes at the present time the dinar at the level of the black market.

In this regard, a tool of control called "policy maker" which is a kind of economic and monetary authority will be instituted with as a fundamental part the control of the free market of currencies and to bring if necessary corrections and to determine the margin between the rates of change.

The system of the multiple rates of change, which was applied by a great number of countries even the developed ones, consists in general in officially given to the national money a double or a triple capacity according to the nature of activity.

In this regard, for activities considered as strategic and requiring the import of raw materials or spare parts it will be applied a preferential rate of change as to operations of imports destined to activities of less priority, it will be practised a rate of change less favourable which will be fixed by the free market of currencies.

Egypt

PLO's 'Arafat Meets With Egyptian Officials

Mubarak, 'Arafat Hold Talks

NC0502153693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held a round of talks with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in Cairo earlier today, at the presidential office this afternoon.

The talks were attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and on the Palestinian side by Fatah representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah and Palestinian ambassador to Egypt Sa'id Kamal.

Possible Christopher-'Arafat Meeting

JN0502183693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak held an important session of talks with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in Cairo this afternoon.

Informed Palestinian sources say the leaders' talks dealt with the deportee issue and Israel's position aimed at circumventing Resolution 799 and preventing the issuance of any Security Council resolution imposing sanctions on Israel in case it insists on rejecting the resolution calling for the return of all the Palestinians to their homeland.

It was also learned that the talks dealt with the future of the regional peace process and the preliminary results of the visit to Washington by Usamah al-Baz, the Egyptian president's political affairs adviser, especially Egypt's mediation efforts to hold a meeting between the Palestinian president and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during the latter's visit to Cairo in the second half of February.

The sources said that 'Arafat asked Mubarak to continue his contacts with the United States and other international powers to force Israel to implement the Security Council resolution in full. 'Arafat called for coordinating Arab efforts and exercising pressure to hold a quick Security Council session to impose deterrent sanctions on Israel in case it continues to refuse to implement the resolution.

Musa, 'Arafat Discuss Deportees

NC0602190593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat tonight. Dr. Nabil Sha'th, member of the PLO Executive Committee; Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador to Egypt; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, representative of the Fatah Movement, attended the meeting, which focused on the deportees issue, current efforts to return them home, and current efforts to stimulate the peace process.

'Arafat Comments After Musa Meeting

NC0602210293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—Following his two-hour round of talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat stated that they discussed the question of the deportees and all other topics. 'Arafat added: We are following up the matter from all aspects and our position as Palestinians so far is one of rejecting the offer made by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher because we believe it is insufficient. This is particularly so since Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has stated that he will expel hundreds more Palestinians and he said in his speech that the United States has legitimized the deportation for him.

'Arafat noted that this is unacceptable and contrary to the Geneva Convention and UN resolutions. He added: We view the transfer as a serious act because it undermines the Palestinian presence on our territory. The wide-scale transfer operation is taking place at a time when there is a massive immigration of Jews into the occupied Arab territories.

President 'Arafat thanked Egypt and President Husni Mubarak, who asked Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to intensify his endeavors right at the start of the deportees crisis to find a solution acceptable to all parties, particularly the Palestinians.

Asked if the matter has reached a dead end, 'Arafat said: I cannot say that. We are still trying, and the brothers in Egypt are trying with us. We thank them for the efforts they are exerting with us.

'Arafat's political adviser Dr. Nabil Sha'th has stated that the Palestinians have not stopped their efforts to secure the return of the deportees, adding that so far the matter has not reached a dead end. He added: Undoubtedly, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, will travel to the United States to talk about this matter and meet with members of the new U.S. Administration before Warren Christopher visits the region. Sha'th added that 'Ashrawi will brief U.S. State Department officials on the Palestinian position before Christopher arrives. He said: We do not reject the return of 100 deportees, but we refuse to accept this as the solution. He pointed out that the solution is for everybody to return and that there must be guarantees that they will all return.

Mubarak, 'Arafat Meet; Musa Comments

NC0702175993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1729 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat at the presidential office this evening. Also present at the meeting were Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador to Egypt; and Nabil Sha'th, 'Arafat's political adviser.

After the meeting, Musa commented on the talks, saying they were a continuation of President Mubarak's earlier discussions with 'Arafat over the last two days and they focused on the deportees issue and the regional peace process.

Musa asserted that action on this issue must be continued until all the deportees are allowed to return in accordance with international law. He announced: Our position on this issue is clear.

Musa pointed out that there is a united world view that mass deportation violates international law and is an improper act that obstructs peace. He declared: We must handle this issue promptly to boost the peace process and resume earlier discussions on the land-for-peace issue.

'Arafat Leaves Cairo

NC0702221893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo this evening after a three-day visit to Egypt. During his visit, he held talks with President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the deportees issue and the Middle East peace talks. He was seen off at the airport by Palestinian ambassador to Egypt Sa'id Kamal, and Fatah representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah.

Musa on Deportees, Talks, Christopher Visit

NC0502175593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Paris, 5 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that Israel's acceptance of the need for the

Palestinian deportees' return and the right to return is a step in the right direction, that is, toward respecting the rules of international law, which says that collective deportation and deporting the inhabitants of the occupied territories are illegal. He added: When we say it is a good step, it does not mean it is a solution, just a step. The solution is the full return of all the deportees. Hence the Arab stand is a united one; the international stand is also united. The move taken by Israel is just a step and not a solution, and it does not constitute implementation of Security Council Resolution 799.

In an interview with the Paris-based Arabic RADIO L'ORIENT, Musa said: UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali's demand in his recent report to the Security Council is reasonable and sound from the legal and political viewpoint, meaning that the implementation of Resolution 799 requires the return of all the deportees. We believe that the Security Council has a responsibility but this does not preclude continuing diplomatic and political efforts and our continued dealing with this issue until all the deportees return to their homeland.

Musa went on to say: We can move in several directions. The diplomatic campaign and the contacts with the various influential powers and with Israel must continue in order to effect the deportees' return as soon as possible, and I mean the immediate return. The question is how to protect both the deportees' right to an immediate return and the peace process.

Asked if Egypt backs the Palestinian demand for an Israeli pledge to stop the policy of deportation in the future because it violates the Fourth Geneva Convention, the minister said: Of course. We back the Palestinian demand without hesitation.

Musa said that the peace talks have been postponed and that neither the bilateral nor the multilateral talks will be resumed before April or before an agreement on a date is reached.

Asked why the multilateral negotiations were postponed indefinitely and whether this has anything to do with the deportees, he said: This has to do with the general atmosphere around the peace process and the framework for ensuring its success and not impeding or boycotting it or causing its collapse.

The Egyptian foreign minister was then asked: Did the Americans consult you before the multilateral talks were postponed? He replied: There were consultations with all the parties, including the Palestinians. There were consultations with us and with others on the best way of either resuming these negotiations or postponing them. What was concluded was agreed by all parties because the negotiations cannot be resumed under the present conditions. The aim is to maintain the peace process itself and this is an extremely important issue because it is in Arab interests to let the peace process continue on the basis of the principle of land for peace.

Musa was then asked: How can the peace process continue if Israel does not agree to the return of all the deportees? He said: We will cross this bridge when we come to it. What we have to do now is effect a collective return and save the peace process.

Asked what he expects from new Secretary of State Warren Christopher's trip in the second half of February, Musa said: We expect to have a long talk about the peace process and the situation in the region. We hope to have done something on the issue of the deportees or reached a solution by then. If not, this issue will be at the top of the agenda with the U.S. secretary of state.

On whether he accepts the gradual return of the deportees, Musa said: It is not an issue of gradual or nongradual return. The issue is to affirm the right of return for all of them and ensure that Israel does not resort to collective deportation again.

Mubarak Trying To Ensure Arab Talks Participation

NC0702144693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Razzaz: "Mubarak's Foreign Policy Embodies the Wishes of the Egyptian Masses"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The issues of peace and security remain the foundation of Egypt's foreign policy because strengthening security and stability promotes economic development and progress. This explains President Mubarak's careful handling of the Palestinian deportees crisis—a crisis amounting to a dilemma. Handling it with recklessness, impulsiveness, and thoughtless idiocy might ruin the major, arduous, and serious effort that covered the period from October 1991 when the peace conference started in Madrid to the latest round of talks in Washington. The Egyptian leadership's diplomatic stance toward the Israeli, U.S., and Arab parties, particularly the Palestinians, has stressed that the deportees crisis should not be the straw that breaks the camel's back. This does not mean that Egypt supports compromises: Cairo's response to Israel's latest proposal emphasized that the solution lies in implementing UN Security Council Resolution 799 and the return of all the deportees.

However, it appears that Israel has made intensive efforts with Washington and other Western capitals to convince some parties that the proposal to return 100 deportees was a step in the right direction. For this reason, Egyptian diplomatic moves take into account the new developments affecting the crisis prior to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's first tour of the Middle East. [passage omitted]

If the opportunity to negotiate is lost, no one will have mercy on the Arabs, particularly the Palestinians. We say this while emphasizing that returning some and not all of the deportees is not the solution we like. Still we must not turn the Marj al-Zuhur crisis into a pretext by which Israel's rulers can abort the negotiations. In this way the

Arabs would make new errors that do not differ greatly from past errors, beginning with their rejection of the Palestine partition resolution of 1947 that provided for establishing an Arab state alongside the Jewish state.

This crisis was discussed by President Mubarak and Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo over the last two days. Mubarak viewed the implications of the crisis with total honesty for the benefit of the Palestinians. Palestinian president 'Arafat also explained the situation. The truth remains clear: The Arabs must not have a divided stand on such issues. The cordon states and other countries concerned with Middle East peace must coordinate their positions on the crisis. This is the role that Mubarak's leadership is taking care to play. It involves a wish to have full Arab participation in the peace talks and believes that not one delegation from the cordon states should absent itself or fail to participate positively in any negotiations. We must prove to the world that we can rise above Israel's conspiracies, particularly the deportees crisis. If this crisis remains unresolved, it is Israel that will pay a dear price for its intransigence before world opinion, which is united in its view that Security Council Resolution 799 must be implemented. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Visit of Kuwaiti Foreign Minister

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives

NC0502180993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1716 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Cairo from Tehran this evening on a one-day visit to Egypt. He will deliver a message from Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah to President Husni Mubarak.

Meets Mubarak, Comments

NC0502192893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah at the presidential office in Heliopolis tonight. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the Kuwaiti ambassador to Egypt.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that he handed President Mubarak a message from the amir of Kuwait dealing with bilateral relations and the issue of releasing Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq.

On the security arrangements in the Gulf region and whether this issue was discussed during his visit to Iran, he said that his visit to Tehran dealt with bilateral relations and border violations. He stressed the importance of implementing the Security Council resolutions.

On the Damascus Declaration, he said that Kuwait signed it and will be the link between Damascus, Cairo, and the Gulf Cooperation Council member-states. He asserted that there are no political reasons for the delay in holding the meeting of the finance ministers of the Damascus Declaration members.

He added that Kuwait supports any national opposition that protects the Iraqi people from the present regime.

He said that the U.S.-Kuwaiti maneuvers were prearranged and had nothing to do with the recent Iraqi violations. He added that the committee discussing the border issue has completed the demarcation of the land border and will start the demarcation of the maritime border and officially complete it next month.

He also said that he will thank Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid tomorrow for his work to release Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq.

'No Hope' of Iraq Reconciliation

LD0602143993 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1210 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has confirmed that there is no hope of a reconciliation between Kuwait and Iraq as long as the present regime remains in power.

He warned that this hostility is not against the Iraqi people as such, but against the rulers of Iraq who committed the crime of invading and occupying Kuwait on 2 August 1990.

Shaykh Sabah said this in a statement he made after meeting with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid here today. Shaykh Sabah said that he and Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid discussed everything concerning the situation in our area; that is, Kuwait and Iraq. Shaykh Sabah clarified the picture there to Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. He stressed that Kuwait looks forward to some efforts from Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, whom he described as an umbrella for all Arabs, with regard to the question of solving the problem of the Kuwaiti prisoners of war and hostages in Iraqi jails.

He expressed the hope that the efforts of Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid and Ambassador Rashid Idris, his special envoy who is entrusted with this problem, will be successful so that they may bring joy to the hearts of the Kuwaiti people.

On the question of clearing the Arab atmosphere, Shaykh Sabah said that this is not the right time to raise this matter, especially with regard to the situation in Iraq. He added that so long as the present regime in Iraq remains in power there is no hope of an improvement in the conditions.

On the possibility of opening a new page with the Arab states which supported Iraq during the Iraqi invasion of

Kuwait, Shaykh Sabah explained that Kuwait is ready for this provided those states "contact us and admit their wrongdoing."

Foreign Minister Departs Cairo

NC0602175393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1651 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo tonight following a one-day visit to Egypt. During the visit, Shaykh al-Sabah handed President Muhammad Husni Mubarak a written message from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah dealing with developments in the Gulf.

The Kuwaiti official also met Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. Musa accompanied Shaykh al-Sabah to the airport.

Musa on Meetings With Kuwaiti Minister, 'Arafat

NC0502221693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received this evening at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who arrived in Cairo this evening. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Kuwait's ambassador to Egypt.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, stated after the meeting that he handed President Mubarak a written message from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah on bilateral relations. The message also explained the situation created by the Iraqi aggression, especially as it is now, as well as some Iraqi violations of the Kuwaiti borders.

'Amr Musa stated that discussions during the meeting focused on the subjects in the message, bilateral relations, the special situation in Kuwait, tension on the border with Iraq, and prisoners of war.

On the talks between President Mubarak and Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, Musa said the talks focused on the Palestinian deportees and the peace process. They also discussed Kuwaiti prisoners of war and the general situation in the Gulf region.

Responding to a question on reports that 'Arafat brought a message from President Saddam Husayn to President Mubarak, the foreign minister said: They discussed the situation as I explained. President 'Arafat conveyed his impressions on the general situation there and the development of the problem, which we have all been following with regard to the situation and circumstances inside Iraq, and the current threats to it.

Musa affirmed that Egypt's stance on this problem is that we cannot accept the fragmentation of Iraq under any circumstances. He said we cannot agree to anything that could threaten Iraq's unity. He added that Egypt's stand regarding the Security Council resolutions is clear, as is its stand on the need to calm the situation so that things become clearer in the region.

As for Kuwait and Iraq's sovereignty on their respective territories and relations in general in the Gulf region, he said the whole situation is linked to a large number of problems. This has been presented for discussion between President Mubarak and other leaders and ministers in the region, as well as for discussion by the Arab League.

Answering a question on whether there is a specific Egyptian plan being discussed with the parties concerned in the issue of the return of the deportees—Israel, the United States, and the Palestinians—Musa said there is no plan as such. There are continuing contacts between Egypt and all the parties concerned in the issue of the deportees so that we can guarantee their immediate return.

He said Israel's offer is a step in the right direction, that is the direction of returning the deportees, but what we are asking for is full implementation of Resolution 799 and that no Palestinian will be exiled from the occupied territories and mass deportation will not be used again. Peace ought to be given a chance, which is what we are asking Israel to do.

He said participation is not a plan, but we do insist on the return of all the deportees to their land and homes. [sentence as heard] This is what we are working toward to save the peace process and put things in their correct perspective in accordance with the Geneva agreements.

A round of talks was held this evening between 'Amr Musa and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah at the Foreign Ministry. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad stated that during this session, they discussed the latest developments of the situation in the Middle East region, especially in the Gulf region. They also discussed Egyptian-Kuwaiti relations and how they should be bolstered in all fields.

Christopher To Find Government 'Eager' for Peace

NC0602074293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH believes that the statement the White House issued about the U.S. commitment to push the peace process forward means a lot to the people of the Middle East, particularly if it is interpreted into practical steps to remove old and new obstacles impeding the peace process. The obstacles emerged after the former U.S. Administration and intensified world efforts succeeded

in bringing the parties to the Middle East conflict together at the negotiating table in Madrid and then in Washington.

In its editorial today, the newspaper adds that when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher embarks on his first mission to the region in mid-February, he will find that Egypt is eager to achieve a just and comprehensive peace and that it adopts a firm stance dictated by its principled support for peace and Arab rights in accordance with international legitimacy.

The paper concludes that the temporary postponement of bilateral and multilateral talks might give all parties concerned the opportunity to reconsider their stands and assess what happened in the previous stage so that they can give the peace process a positive push forward.

U.S.-Israeli 'Suspicious Deal' Criticized

NC0702072693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—In its Sunday [7 February] commentary, AL-AHRAM emphasizes that the U.S.-Israeli agreement—which stipulates that Israel return 100 Palestinian and shorten the deportation period imposed on the others from two years to one—is a strange event and a suspicious deal. The paper notes that such an event, if it recurs, could signal a precedent of setting aside UN and Security Council resolutions and concluding implicit or unfavorable deals among certain parties without consulting the original, injured party. This could undermine the rights of that party, which are guaranteed by the world community, obstruct the UN mechanism, and leave the organization's continuation or suspension at the mercy of certain parties.

The paper notes that according to the deal, the United States promised Israel it would not let the Security Council impose sanctions against it; a reference to the possible use of the U.S. veto should the matter escalate. In addition, the United States promised to place Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] on the list of terrorist organizations, thus guaranteeing to Israel and others that it would be confronted with all means. The paper regrets the U.S. secretary of state's reference to this deal as a step that makes any further measures at the Security Country unnecessary as well as the White House spokesman's remarks that this step is one in the right direction.

The paper points out that it is clear that the purpose of this deal is to block the way before the Arab attempts to impose sanctions against Israel, which the United States and Israel view as a cardinal sin. The paper asks: Under such circumstances, how can the peace process be resumed, which is the third promise that the United States made to Israel under this suspicious deal?

Papers on U.S., Israeli Stands on Deportees

NC0802082193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0809 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM views reports about serious U.S. efforts to gather influential, veto-entitled votes around the principle that it is no longer necessary to call a UN Security Council meeting to follow up on the deportees issue. It affirms that the success of these efforts are bound to prove that the new world order is subject to the will of the permanent members of the UN Security Council, except for China, which is outside that order.

The paper notes that mutual agreements among these states could enable them to overstep the UN Security Council resolutions, even if they had all voted for them. This would be bound to entitle them to hamper the progress of international legitimacy whenever they wanted.

AL-AHRAM points out that Israel is aware of this, because Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin announced that returning 100 Palestinian deportees does not eliminate what he termed as Israel's "right" to deport more Palestinians. This is a major fallacy through which Rabin wants to establish a void policy rejected by the world community because of its violation of international laws, agreements, and norms, the paper says.

If a "principle" is established, giving Israel the right to repeat the exile policy even if it returns all deportees or in spite of a UN Security Council resolution that provides for their return—a thing which the four permanent members, or rather the United States want—it would be a blow to the Security Council, the world community, and international legitimacy, AL-AHRAM concludes.

For its part, AL-AKHBAR asks: How can Rabin agree to implement 25-year-old Resolution 242 on withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories and the Golan Heights if he and his government refuse to comply with two-month-old Resolution 799, which provides for the Palestinian deportees' return to their homes?

The paper states that Rabin has done nothing concrete to inspire confidence in him as a party to peace negotiations or to honor the promises he made when he took power. Instead, the paper says, he committed a provocative act by expelling 400 Palestinians from their homeland.

Rabin knew in advance the consequences of his government's premeditated measures. His arrogance and conceit made him believe that he had the influence to prevent the world community from dealing with Israel in the same way it deals with other states.

AL-AKHBAR affirms that Rabin will not be cured of his deceit unless the Security Council uses the tools entrusted to it by the UN Charter to punish every violator of international law.

Mubarak Discusses Economy, Foreign Policy

NC0702170093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has held an expanded three-hour meeting with al-Minufiyah University's deans, professors, and students at the University's School of Engineering. He discussed domestic and foreign issues.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that the meeting was held in line with the president's wish to meet with Egypt's sons and university students as illustrated by his recent meeting at the Hulwan camp. He added that today's meeting followed an invitation from al-Minufiyah University's president, who met with him there.

At the beginning of the meeting, Mubarak discussed the relationship between domestic issues and foreign policy and the influence international developments have on domestic affairs. He pointed out that the new world order with its inherent changes has affected the region and its issues.

Explaining the circumstances of the use of the Emergency Law, Mubarak said that this law has many articles but the government restricts itself to those articles that enable it to deal promptly with cases involving a threat to people's security. He explained that the law has many articles that have never been used to curtail political action or freedom of expression. He asked: Has a single newspaper been closed down despite all the excesses perpetrated?

The president added: I want the people to learn and make proper choices, accepting what is right and rejecting everything that harms their values and principles. I am convinced that all matters will settle down and that the people will be able to resist all that is corrupt.

On economic reform, Mubarak said: Economic reform measures must be balanced against political reform. Any imbalance between the two might have negative repercussions.

The president described population growth as the most serious issue facing Egypt, noting that it must be proportional to society's capabilities, the state's, and the family's resources so that sound, healthy citizens might be brought up free from complexes. He pointed out that Egypt's population grew by 37 million people during the past 40 years, increasing by nearly 13 million in the last 10 years alone—the equivalent of the population of another state. The president asked: Have our resources increased at the same rate?

He explained that the population growth is the main cause of the country's economic troubles and unless a firm, enlightened stand is adopted against this problem, the state will not be able to provide the minimum means of living for the people.

He added: To maintain our nation's pioneering role and future, we must adopt a clear stand against this population growth, which is the most dangerous issue facing Egypt.

The president detailed economic reform measures and pointed out that no reform policy is adopted without careful government study and that no difficult decision imposing greater burdens on the citizens is made unless it is necessary. He said this is like the bitter pill a patient must take to be cured.

President Mubarak said that 1995 will witness a stage of economic stability and a balance between wages and prices within the framework of a market mechanism.

On tightening government spending, Mubarak explained the articles of the state's general budget, noting that running all government agencies does not exceed 1.8 billion pounds, which is the minimum amount possible to operate the state's main utilities and requirements. He said: There is no overspending; an individual may steal or accept a bribe, but these are isolated incidents that we firmly confront through the judiciary. We do not cover up corruption and we have a fair judiciary. Certain people still mistakenly believe that the judiciary can be interfered with. I say clearly that absolutely no official in Egypt can interfere with the work of the judiciary, which is a safety valve in this era of democracy and freedom. Mubarak said a dictatorship would uproot justice.

Mubarak noted the economic development plan and the philosophy of planning through the first and second five-year development plans, the previous state of the infrastructure, and the projects that have been accomplished to rebuild the infrastructure costing approximately 90 billion pounds—in electricity, railroads, telephones, etc. He said that we borrowed money to accomplish the infrastructure projects because they form the basis for overall development in all fields.

Mubarak referred to the recession sweeping the world, particularly the rich and industrial countries, noting the stagnation of tourism in tourist countries. He pointed out that the economic policy is making progress. He said: This is our and our generation's lot and we must bear burdens for a few years and this will be followed by economic relaxation and stability.

Information Minister al-Sharif said that President Mubarak then spoke of foreign policy and explained the balance of power in the past and the situation resulting form the collapse of the Soviet Union and the emerging new world order. He said that this situation requires that policies be based on carefully thought-out ideas and analysis and striking the right balance between the state's special and general interests and among international, regional, and national issues as well as between political and economic interests.

Mubarak explained the positive impact of close and strong ties with other countries and their effect on

Egypt's political and economic issues as well as international responsiveness to Egypt's issues, respect for its role, and international appreciation for its influence and status in the region and the Arab world. He noted that Egypt's standing stems from its ability, activity, and interaction with the issues of its Arab nation, Africa, and the world in general.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1619 GMT on 7 February carries a report on President Mubarak's meeting with al-Minufiyah faculty members and students, which adds the following: "Regarding Iraq, President Mubarak said that we are opposed to partitioning Iraq and reject intervention to topple regimes militarily. Any regime is the responsibility of its people, he said, and a change must be effected according to the people's will. He said that Egypt's position on the Gulf war was aimed at liberating Kuwait and restoring rights, not at invading Iraq. The Egyptian forces were careful not to shed blood [words indistinct]. Our forces received 4,000 Iraqi soldiers who deserted the Iraqi Army and were very well received because they were sons of the fraternal Iraqi people. He said that Egypt does not plot against any country, is not subject to any custodianship, and refuses anything that contravenes its principles.

["On Sudan, President Mubarak said that there is nothing new; Egypt's sovereignty over its territory is unquestionable and we must distinguish between sovereignty and free movement between the two countries. He noted that Egypt supported the new regime in Sudan by all means until the situation stabilized, and then the trouble began."]

Foreign Minister Musa on Current Issues

NC0702195293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1835 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the Third World states have paid the price for the two superpowers' rivalry, adding that these states must play a role in the new world order through enhanced economic power. He indicated that Egypt is strengthening its economy to play an influential regional and international role. It is also developing science and technology to keep pace with international progress.

At a seminar held this evening at the International Book Fair, Musa said the end of the cold war has made the United States the sole superpower. However, the emergence of regional and international economic groupings has led to a kind of balance on the international and regional levels.

Musa mentioned Egypt's efforts to achieve a balance in the Middle East. He also mentioned Egypt's initiative calling for the creation of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East to which all the states of the region will be committed without exception.

Musa stressed that Egypt enjoys special status in view of its qualifications as an Arab, African, Asian, Islamic, and Third World country. Therefore, its foreign policy takes into consideration these various and linked dimensions.

He stressed that Egypt is striving to restore the Palestinian people's rights as soon as possible so that it will enter the 21st century with a strong economy and a sound infrastructure that will enable it to achieve comprehensive development.

Answering a question on Egypt's stand on the events in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Musa said: The situation there is regrettable. Double standards are being applied. The aggressor has persisted in its aggression and has resorted to ethnic cleansing, something Egypt cannot accept. He added that Egypt has held contacts with the United Nations and the European Community to arrive at a solution viewing Bosnia as a federal state composed of 10 districts. He stressed that Egypt believes that the rights of the Muslims of Bosnia must be respected on the basis of the population percentage of the Muslims, Croats, and Serbs in Bosnia. The new constitution must ensure that none of these districts will secede.

Musa said that Egypt insisted on submitting the issue of the ethnic cleansing practiced in Bosnia-Hercegovina to the Security Council to punish the culprits because this is an unforgivable crime. Ethnic cleansing is also an insult to mankind and a violation of people's rights.

On U.S. policy on the Arab-Israeli conflict, Musa said that despite our differences on some issues, progress has been made toward recognizing Palestinian rights and reaching a solution to the Palestinian issue. He indicated that the United States played a positive role in bringing about a full Israeli withdrawal from Egyptian territory. It has also played a positive role in the Middle East peace process. He expressed the belief that the Clinton administration will continue its positive role in the peace process.

Answering a question on Israel's foreign policy, Musa said that this policy has witnessed some changes, though not drastic ones, such as the Knesset's abolition of the ban on contacts with the PLO. Most Israelis support the peace process and the Palestinian people's rights. Regarding the deportation of the Palestinians, Musa said that Security Council Resolution 799 is binding and that all the deportees must return. The Israeli decision to allow 100 deportees to return is a good step but not a solution and does not constitute full implementation of the resolution.

Foreign Minister Musa said that Egypt is exerting efforts to ensure full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799. There are signs that efforts to implement the resolution are continuing and we hope that the deportees will return home in the near future, he stated. Egypt, Musa added, continues to support the Palestinian position, for the Palestinian issue is crucial for the achievement of security and stability in the region.

Musa said that it is Egypt's responsibility to turn the confrontation among the region's nations into peaceful coexistence while safeguarding the inalienable rights of every nation.

Concerning the Libyan-Western dispute, Musa said that Egypt is seeking a solution of this dispute that protects Libyan rights and upholds the law.

Answering a question about the Arab situation, Musa said that this situation is bad and has to be mended. He added that tireless efforts are needed to improve the current Arab situation of which Egypt does not approve. The foreign minister said that Egypt does not accept partitioning Iraq or continuing to deprive the Palestinian people of their rights.

Musa said that, in order to restore their rights, the Palestinians should persevere and engage in negotiations that are no less tedious than war.

The foreign minister expressed his belief that the current Arab situation is not favorable for holding an Arab summit. He pointed out that Iraq is an Arab state and should remain part of the Arab fabric. The safety and unity of Iraq's land and people should be maintained. As for the Iraqi ruling regime, Musa said that this is an internal matter. He added that Iraq should resume its presence and role within the Arab World.

Commenting on Hala'ib, Musa said that Sudan is a brotherly nation that has eternal links with the Egyptians. It is not in the interest of the two nations to engage in a confrontation, but this does not mean that the record should not be set straight, he stated. We do not agree with some of the general tendencies of the ruling regime in Sudan, the foreign minister added.

Musa said that Egypt is committed to the 1899 border agreement on Egyptian-Sudanese borders, pointing out that the 22d parallel defines the border between Egypt and Sudan.

Islamic Group's Leader Applies for Asylum in U.S.

NC0702090093 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 4-10 Feb 93 p 2

A blind Islamic preacher, believed to head the underground al-Jama'a al-Islamiyah [the Islamic Group] organization, has applied for political asylum in the United States after his green card was withdrawn by authorities. Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's asylum request will be considered this month by a New York federal court, reports Umaymah 'Abd-al-Latif.

A federal court in New York has scheduled a hearing for 20 February to determine whether Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman has a valid case for political asylum, informed sources in Cairo told AL-AHRAM WEEKLY.

The 54-year-old blind shaykh is accused by Egyptian authorities of heading, or being the mentor, of the anti-government al-Jama'a al-Islamiyah organization, blamed for the assassination of President Anwar al-Sadat in 1981 as well as a spate of terrorist activities since then. Even from his self-imposed exile in New York, the shaykh has preached revolution against the Cairo government and its replacement by an Islamic state.

'Abd-al-Rahman, who arrived in the United States in 1990, asked for political asylum last month at a hearing held by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS). He made the request after US authorities withdrew his "green card" in August.

The shaykh entered the United States on a regular tourist visa which immigration officials say would not have been issued, had they realised he gave false information about his marital status. He also failed to inform the INS that he had been convicted in Egypt in 1987 for forging a check. The INS cited these reasons when it rescinded 'Abd-al-Rahman's residence permit in August.

"I am here so that I can continue my work for God, on the people's behalf," 'Abd-al-Rahman said in a recent interview with a British newspaper. "I went to England, to Denmark, to Sweden. I came to the United States only for a while and not to stay here." The shaykh described himself as an Islamic agent of the oppressed.

A press release issued by the US embassy in Cairo this week confirmed that US authorities had decided to annul 'Abd-al-Rahman's permanent residence permit after it became known that he gave false information when making a visa application. "As a result, Shaykh 'Umar made a request for political asylum in the United States and there is an ongoing court case to decide whether or not he will be allowed to stay in the United States," the statement said. It said the shaykh will be treated like any other person standing before US courts.

At a seminar at Cairo's International Book Fair last week, Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa indicated that Egypt had not issued a warrant for 'Abd-al-Rahman's arrest. "He is not wanted in Egypt. He is free to return whenever he wants," Musa said.

Nabil 'Uthman, a spokesman for the Egyptian embassy in Washington, said the Egyptian government has not requested 'Abd-al- Rahman's extradition.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman is staying in a shabby New Jersey apartment, from where tape-recordings of his sermons, attacking the Egyptian government and calling for the application of shari'ah (Islamic law), are smuggled to Cairo.

He is said to be behind the fatwa (religious ruling) that allowed terrorist attacks against tourists in Egypt. "They (the tourists) spread corruption and practise unlawful sexual activities and are trying to destroy our Islamic values," he said in the press interview.

Libya

Syrian Premier Visits To Attend Joint Session

Delegation Arrives

LD0602215493 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Excerpt] [The delegation of] the Council of Ministers of fraternal Syria headed by brother Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Syrian prime minister; and the brother members of the Council: Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr. Muhammad Salman, minister of information; Dr. Muhammad al-Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; brother Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Dr. Muhammad Iyad Shatti, minister of health; brother Danhu Dawud, minister of state for cabinet affairs; Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Subay'i, minister of state for planning affairs; brother Muhammad Radwan Martini, minister of communications; and Dr. Mufid 'Abd-al-Karim, minister of transportation.

They came to participate in the joint session of the Syrian Council of Ministers and Great Jamahiriyah's General People's Congress, which will open this evening in Tripoli. [passage omitted]

Denounces 'Unjust Measures'

JN0602184493 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1745 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 6 Feb (SANA)—[Syrian] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi arrived in Tripoli at 1700 today to head the Syrian side to the meetings of the Higher Syrian-Libyan Joint Committee. [passage omitted]

In a statement to journalists, the prime minister expressed appreciation for the warm reception he and members of the Syrian delegation were accorded. [passage omitted]

He said: On this occasion, I would like to reiterate our support for our Arab people in Libya. We also express our cooperation and solidarity with them in the face of challenges, particularly concerning their suffering from the unjust measures adopted against them. We are confident that our Arab people in Libya are able to overcome the ordeal and dangers threatening them.

Answering a question on the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions, the prime minister said: We notice that the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions does not always take place with the same spirit and force on those whom the resolutions are issued in favor or against. We believe that there are several standards for the implementation of these resolutions. This shows indifference to this international organization, its resolutions, and the international community. The best proof is the suffering of our Arab nation and that of some other countries in the world, such as Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Concluding his statement, the prime minister said: By closing our ranks, and through solidarity, we will be able to force others to respect our will, and consequently to respect any resolutions issued in our favor and in the interest of our Arab causes.

Joint Committee Holds Meetings

JN0702073893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Tripoli—Meetings of the Higher Joint Syrian-Libyan Committee were held yesterday chaired by [Syrian] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and 'Umar Abu-Zayd Durdah, secretary of the General People's Committee in the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

At the beginning of the session, Durdah welcomed al-Zu'bi and members of the Syrian Arab delegation. He said the Jamahiriyah highly values Syria's distinguished role under President Hafiz al-Asad in support of the Jamahiriyah against the unjust blockade that has been imposed on its people. He affirmed that the people of the Jamahiriyah constantly recall Syria's efforts to avert this unjust blockade.

Afterward, Mahmud al-Zu'bi said that Syria's stand alongside the Jamahiriyah stems from the feelings of brotherhood that the Syrian people harbor toward their brothers in the Jamahiriyah. He added that the relations of brotherhood and friendship that bind the leaders of our two countries—President Hafiz al-Asad and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi—provide a catalyst for promoting and strengthening these relations.

Meanwhile, it has been decided to ask the specialized subcommittees under ministers and secretaries of the People's Committees to hold bilateral meetings in order to discuss bilateral relations in various fields and to submit proposals to the Higher Joint Committee.

Cooperation, Integration Discussed

LD0702174793 Tripoli JANA in English 1422 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Tripoli, 7 February (JANA)— The united session between the Syrian Council of Ministers and the General People's Committee of the Great Jamahiriyah began its meetings last night in Tripoli to evaluate the needs of the Arab people in the two countries and ways to benefit from joint resources harnessing them in the form of projects and tangible programmes to meet the needs of the citizens of both countries in a manner which may enhance their economic foundations as a step towards complementarity and unity. Taking part in the meeting were the Syrian Council of Ministers and the General People's Committee.

The secretary of the General People's Committee made a speech asserting that the presence of the Syrian brothers

amongst their Libyan brothers at a time of unfair coercive measures against the the Great Jamahiriyah showed the support and solidarity of Syria with the Great Jamahiriyah.

He expressed the hope that these meetings will mark the beginning of a series of regular meetings stressing that there were no political obstacles in the Great Jamahiriyah or Syria for the realisation of economic integration then unity between the two sisterly countries.

He pointed out that the Great Jamahiriyah succeeded in reaching advanced levels and cooperation with a number of other Arab countries for that cooperation was established directly with the Arab people whereby restrictions which stood as an obstacle between the same Arab people were lifted (?by) the people, rather than political regimes, an accomplish successes [words indistinct].

The secretary said that we benefited from our positive experience and the committees which we formed were briefed that if any such obstacles existed, [they] should be removed opening the way for the Arab people to carry out any activities which may enhance further the unity of interests between the two brotherly people.

The Syrian Prime Minister, Mahmud al-Zu'bi made a speech on his part expressing his personal pleasure and that of his delegation for being in the Great Jamahiriyah and his thanks and appreciation extended to them in the Great Jamahiriyah.

He stressed that we are capable of implementing the already existing agreements between us as well as adding to them the accords which we may reach during the present meetings for there are no obstacles in both countries in the way of the agrreements we conclude this is one Arab people and one Arab nation with common interests and while the whole world consider us as one nation we don't look at each other in the same way. [sentence as received]

The Syrian prime minister reasserted Syria's solidarity with and support for the Great Jamahiriyah against the unfair coercive measures imposed on her.

He affirmed that the Security Council resolutions against the Great Jamahiriyah were arbitrary describing the initiatives and proposals put forward by the Great Jamahiriyah to deal with the crisis were serious and constructive in finding out the truth .

He said that the Arabs' future [words indistinct] and solidarity for we are people of just rights and cause.

He added that results achieved by the joint technical committees in their meetings must provide the basis on which we will build on and discuss in our current meetings so as to achieve positive results in all spheres and remove all obstacles which may stand in the way of the interests of our Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Syria and let our work be a pilot example to be followed.

At the end of the opening meeting, the two sides agreed on setting up joint committees in the fields of the economy, finance, agriculture, education, health, information and culture to [passage indistinct]

Subcommittees Reconvene 7 Feb

JN0702200793 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] The subcommittees of the Higher Joint Syrian-Libyan Committee reconvened this morning to discuss multi-faceted cooperation between the two countries.

Meets With Jallud

LD0802102193 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0940 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud yesterday evening met in Tripoli with brother Mahmud al-Zu'bi, prime minister of fraternal Syria, who was taking part in the proceedings of the joint session of the Syrian Council of Ministers and the General People's Committee of the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

West's Urging of Zaire President To Resign Denounced

LD0602220793 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Tripoli, 6 Feb (JANA)—Some Western powers asked the President of Zaire, Mobutu Sese Seko, to resign and to hand over power to his prime minister.

JANA's African affairs editor commented, and asked: Can a state ask another sovereign state's president to resign, and is there a provision in the UN Charter to justify such a request, or is it that the country whose president was asked to resign is still colonized and not an independent state?

The JANA editor goes on: If this is the case, then the movement of struggle against colonialism must go on and the liberation movement must re-emerge in the world. If this country is independent how can these people have the right to ask its president to resign? Can we—Third World countries—in this case have the right to ask a president to resign?

The editor stressed that if there are simpletons or frightened people in the world this does not apply to everyone, because there are people who understand this game very well. He stressed that there is no way open to President Mobuto of Zaire except to lead his own people against those powers which interfere in Zaire's domestic affairs, and that the people of Zaire must realize that they have every right to decide who should rule them.

Morocco

Democratic Bloc Suspends Role in Election Committee

LD0702135993 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Rabat, 7 Feb (MAP)— The four political parties which constitute the Democratic Bloc have announced that they have suspended their participation in the work of the national committee entrusted to take care of the elections operations. The al-Istiqlal, Socialist Union of Popular Forces, Progress and Socialism, and Organization of Democratic Action parties announced their decision in a memorandum that Mohamed Boucetta, the general secretary of al-Istiqlal party, delivered to the national election committee. The memorandum, which was published in the organs of the four parties, referred to the previous statements presented by the four parties in which they demanded to be supplied with the full results of the communal elections which were held on 16 October, the draft bill concerning the definition of electoral constituencies for the legislative elections, the correction of the electoral lists, the renewal of elections cards, the study of drafts proposed by heads and members of the voting bureaus by local committees to be set up by the regional committees, and the law regulating legislative elections. They also demanded the establishment of an information unit and the creation of a relaxed political atmosphere in the country.

The four political parties blame the national committee for "stumbling and slowness" in its work, for "not tackling fundamental issues in order to make necessary decisions at the appropriate time," and for "retracting, in principle, on decisions already made concerning important issues."

Mohamed Benaissa Appointed Ambassador To U.S.

LD0602215893 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, this afternoon received at the Royal Palace in Fes, Mr. Mohamed Benaissa, to whom His Majesty handed his letters of credence as ambassador for His Majesty in the United States. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

UN Decides To Send Troops to Border With Iraq

LD0502195493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1718 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] United Nations, 5 Feb, (KUNA)—The UN Security Council has unanimously agreed today to send an international peacekeeping force consisting of 3,600 soldiers to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border for a six-month period.

Council Hails UN Decision

LD0702165893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1439 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 7 February (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers has expressed profound satisfaction and welcome for the recent UN Security Council resolution which stipulates sending an observer force to the Kuwati-Iraqi border; increasing the strength of this force, to put an end to the repeated violations and attacks carried out by the forces of the Iraqi regime against the sovereignty of the Kuwaiti territory; and to supervise a peace- keeping mission between Kuwait and Iraq in accordance with the regulations of article seven of the UN charter. [passage omitted]

Al-Dakhil, minister for cabinet affairs, stated that while Kuwait reiterates its faith in the significant role of the United Nations and the Security Council, it stresses its support and backing for this resolution through all possible means in order to guarantee the implementation of all its goals, for the sake of security and stability in the region.

The minister for cabinet affairs also announced that the Kuwaiti government and the government of the Republic of Paraguay have decided to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level. [passage omitted]

UN Troops Welcomed

LD0602120893 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] In a new affirmation of the international community's determination to see the Iraqi regime observing the resolutions of international legitimacy, and in a new reiteration of its guarantee of the sanctity of the Kuwaiti borders and their non-violation by the Iraqi regime, the UN Security Council has passed a resolution on sending military forces to monitor the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border region. The unanimous Resolution 806 stresses that these troops will use force to prevent any violations of Kuwaiti borders by the Baghdad regime, citing Chapter 7 of the UN Charter which authorizes the use of force in the event of any violations of the items specified in the resolution.

Kuwait, while welcoming this unanimous resolution, reiterates anew its adherence to all the resolutions of international legitimacy which aim at the achievement of peace and stability in the region.

Defense Minister Interviewed on Army, Readiness

PM0502164593 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 3-9 Feb 93 pp26-28

[Unattributed interview with Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-MAJALLAH] After the Iraqi violations and the retaliation by the coalition forces, people have recently been wondering: Is the Kuwaiti Army still facing difficulties impeding its reconstruction, and where did it go wrong?

[Al-Salim] Kuwait has not been negligent since the Iraqi attack and [its army] is present on the northern border. We must realize that there is an international decision placing the Iraqi-Kuwaiti borders under Security Council supervision since the cease-fire in February 1991. A border area extending 5 km inside Kuwaiti territory and 10 km inside Iraqi territory was declared a demilitarized zone and UN observers were deployed there. The Security Council resolution prohibits the entry of either side into that area. We honor the UN and Security Concil resolutions. [passage omitted] What Iraq did was against the UN camps not against Kuwait. Legally, or even morally, Kuwait cannot enter the 5-km area. The Iraqis who did enter did so in civilian clothes. So, there was no failure on the part of the Kuwaiti Army. It had no part to play because the aggression was against the United Nations not against Kuwait.

[AL-MAJALLAH] That fact is clear. The question is this: Two years after the liberation, can the Kuwaiti Army defend its territory in any way different from what happened in August 1990, although there were attempts to resist the invasion?

[Al-Salim] You know that Kuwait's population is 700,000. The Iraqi Army has 1.5 million men. So, although we do defend ourselves, we cannot in any way prevent Iraq from entering Kuwait. We must admit this fact. On 2 August 1990, the Kuwaiti Army had its equipment and all its defense affairs were organized, but power outweighs courage. After the liberation, the Kuwaiti Army's capabilities are half what they were before the invasion. All our equipment was exhausted and our financial resources were frozen. Many factors have made the Kuwaiti Army weaker than it was on 2 August 1990.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Despite the arms and equipment you purchased after the liberation?

[Al-Salim] We have not purchased anything. The misconception is that Kuwait has spent large sums of money on the modernization of its army. In a supermarket you can buy what you need within minutes but you cannot expect to go to tank and aircraft plants and expect your purchases to reach your military bases in a couple of days. There is a delivery and training period which might exceed three years after an arms deal is signed.

[AL-MAJALLAH] But you have concluded contracts for the purchase of large quantities of arms, as is evident from the fact that the British Defense Ministry has set up an office to deal with Kuwaiti purchases which have reached hundreds of millions.

[Al-Salim] That is correct but the equipment has not reached Kuwait yet. [passage omitted]

[AL-MAJALLAH] The Iranian Government has made massive allocations in its new budget for arms purchases and most Gulf states are stockpiling arms. Where will this armament lead and who is there to fear?

[Al-Salim] The same question applies to the whole world. The United States and the Soviet Union used to fear one another and so they produced arms and military equipment. Then they reached a stage where they wondered how long that was going to go on. Finally they decided to coexist. In our region, I believe that the various states would not have purchased arms had it not been for the treacherous Iraqi invasion. The arms are not against Iran. They are for the purpose of repulsing Iraq, whether they are purchased by Kuwait or the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states in general. I believe that the arms purchased by Iran are for the purpose of maintaining its own security and stability because Iraq still harbors ill intentions against the states of the Arabian Peninsula and Iran. [passage omitted]

[AL-MAJALLAH] Recent events have shown that some of those with no specific nationality or those known as "stateless" [those who have long lived in Kuwait but are not regarded as Kuwaiti citizens] have joined the Iraqi popular army while many of them remained loyal to Kuwait but do not have Kuwaiti citizenship. How do you prepare these people for the defense of Kuwait and how would they defend it, now that it has been established that the Kuwaiti Government will not help them get the citizenship and has not upheld the rights of those of them who were martyred?

[Al-Salim] That is not true. I personally consider everyone who took up arms against Iraq to be a Kuwaiti, regardless of his nationality.

[AL-MAJALLAH] But that is not the view of the former defense minister who said after the liberation that "the stateless" were not Kuwaitis regardless of whether or not they participated in resisting the invasion and in the liberation of Kuwait.

[Al-Salim] That is true, they have no specific citizenship.

[AL-MAJALLAH] But you said a few moments ago that whoever took up arms and defended Kuwait was Kuwaiti.

[Al-Salim] That is my view not the Kuwaiti Government's. Whoever took up arms against Iraq in defense of Kuwait is Kuwaiti regardless of his nationality, even if he is Iraqi. Any claim that the rights have been denied is untrue. [passage omitted]

[AL-MAJALLAH] You have said that, in your own personal opinion, anyone who carried arms in defense of Kuwait is Kuwaiti. Thousands of "statless" people are still working in the Kuwaiti Army after the elimination of the undesirables. Why do you not grant them rights and citizenship?

[Al-Salim] Every "stateless" member of the Kuwaiti Army now enjoys the same privileges as the Kuwaiti soldiers, with the exception of citizenship. Their sons are treated in state hospitals and go to state schools. Each one of them has been given a house. There is a cabinet decision that they be treated as Kuwaitis.

[AL-MAJALLAH] You said in the National Assembly that the stateless constitute 32 percent of the total number of the Kuwaiti Army but Deputy 'Abdallah al-Nibari put the figure at 75 percent. That is a big difference. The public generally believes that they constitute the majority. Was the 32 percent figure reached after liquidation or is that really not the true percentage?

[Al-Salim] I explained the matter in detail to Brother al-Nibari when he asked but he wanted to bring other issues into it. The percentage of the stateless in the Kuwaiti Army was 80 before 1982. After the liberation it became 32 percent. [passage omitted]

[AL-MAJALLAH] It is known that the police force arrests several Iranian infiltrators every day. That falls within the interior ministry's jurisdiction, but is it not part of the jurisdiction of the Kuwaiti Navy, which is attached to the defense ministry, to prevent Iranian boats and infiltrators from reaching the shore?

[Al-Salim] The defense ministry cannot deal with the question of the infiltrators because that is not within its jurisdiction, regardless of whether the infiltration is by sea or land.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Do officials from the Kuwaiti defense ministry hold regular metings with officials from the U.S. Defense Department or defense ministries of the coalition forces? How are decisions such as the decision to hit Iraqi positions made? Were you, for instance, notified of the strike decision in advance? Is there prior coordination?

[Al-Salim] The Kuwaiti-American-French-British agreements are all agreements of cooperation, exchange of expertise, and defense. The defense comes only at Kuwait's request. When the coalition states launched their air strike against Iraq, we played no part in the decisionmaking and we had no knowledge of it.

[AL-MAJALLAH] But Iraq could have reacted by launching a missile attack on Kuwait.

[Al-Salim] We were informed one hour before the air strike was launched. It was not a notification with a view to seeking approval. It was an expression of cooperation that we were informed that an air strike would be launched against Iraq. The U.S. force which arrived in Kuwait, and which was highlighted by the world press,

was actually one of a group of forces which come to Kuwait and go after carrying out some exercises. The only difference is that instead of arriving on 17 January 1993, it arrived on 13 January 1993 at Kuwait's request.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Was there fear of an Iraqi invason or Iraqi military reprisal?

[Al-Salim] There was fear of an Iraqi reprisal against Kuwait. There was also a political reason, namely that it should be felt that there were U.S. forces in Kuwait so that Iraq would think twice before taking any action.

[AL-MAJALLAH] The National Assembly's Defense and Interior Affairs Committee asked you to change the high military command and staff board but you refused. What are the details of this case?

[Al-Salim] The committee did not make any such request but two members of other committees wanted to bargain. The Financial Committee and the Economic Committee headed by Isma'il al-Shatti and Mubarak al-Duwaylah had told me that they would not approve the defense budget unless I dismissed the military and civilian commands at the defense ministry. They said so orally. I asked why. They replied that they were not confident that our use of these funds would be sound. I told Dr. Isma'il al-Shatti that I reject that and that I would not be a party to any criminal act in order to get my budget approved. I also told him: You accuse these people of theft. If that was true and I removed them from the command to get support for my budget, then I would be committing a crime. 'Ali al-Salim does not agree to remain silent about thieves or to participate in a crime. If they were guilty then they would stand trial regardless of the budget. They had no answer to that.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What role would the military judiciary play if a Kuwaiti military person were guilty of negligence or treason?

[Al-Salim] At present, the situation is that a military judiciary structure was proposed but the National Assembly did not approve. In the army we have no law for military trials apart from the 1967 law. If a military person contacted the enemy or betrayed his country, we have no law under which he could be tried.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Did the National Assembly propose an alternative to the draft law it rejected?

[Al-Salim] It did not propose an alternative. It rejected the draft law after it was approved by the Defense and Interior Affairs Committee at a meeting with written minutes.

[AL-MAJALLAH] When the Fact-Finding Committee completes its work in connection with the invasion, and if it were proved that there were some negligence or guilt on the part of the army, how would the trials take place?

[Al-Salim] In accordance with the civil law.

[AL-MAJALLAH] The former chief of staff has refused to appear before the Fact-Finding Committee looking into the invasion catastrophe. Why, and how do you view the matter?

[Al-Salim] When the Fact-Finding Committee was formed, the government expressed complete willingness to coopeate and provide all the necessary guarantees for it. The government also wanted to know who committed what wrong, but that does not mean that the committee is above the law. We are a democratic state which always upholds the rule of law and always says that the law is above everyone. The committee summoned some retired military figures, including the former chief of staff. He refused to appear, and rightly so, because the army law prohibits military personnel from divulging secrets or giving any information even after leaving the service. He said to me: I have refused to appear before the committee and I want legal cover. So I contacted Brother Salih al-Faddalah and said to him: Please make a list of all people required to testify and send it to me so that I can provide legal cover because law requires the written approval of the defense minister. There were some differences of opinion. So, I told them [not further identified] all I wanted was a letter reading as follows: "Please consider all army members as witnesses before the Fact-Finding Committee ..."

They refused and said that they did not want the issue to move from the Fact-Finding committee to an investigating committee. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

President Vows To Recover Islands From Iran

NC0602105993 Paris AFP in English 1022 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, Feb 6 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) vowed Saturday to regain control of three disputed Gulf islands from Iran and said the problem threatened stability in the region.

President Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, opening parliament, said Iran's presence on Abu Musa and the two Tunb islands harmed ties with the UAE's giant neighbour across the Gulf.

"The UAE has often expressed its desire to resolve this problem through peaceful means," the 76-year-old president said.

"It affirms its determination to pursue all peaceful measures to recover its sovereignty on its three islands in accordance with the United Nations Charter, international law, and the holy book (Koran)."

The speech broadcast on state-run television came a day after Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani welcomed what he called a change in the attitude of Gulf Arab states. [passage omitted]

"The UAE considers that the continuation of Iranian occupation of its three islands and non-compliance with the agreement on Abu Musa constitute a violation of the sovereignty and integrity of the UAE and a destabilising factor in the region," Shaykh Zayid said.

"It also contradicts the stated desire to develop relations between the two countries. We affirm that development of friendly ties between the two countries hinges on boosting confidence and measures that show Iran's adherence to international law and respect of the UAE sovereignty."

In his address to the parliament, which includes 27 new members and reconvened after a recess of more than a year, Shaykh Zayid outlined other aspects of the UAE's domestic and foreign policy.

He said the UAE would continue to bolster its Armed Forces, pledged support for the 12-year-old GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] and the Damascus Declaration, and called for cooperation among regional states to maintain security.

"Stability in the Gulf is necessary not only for its countries, but for the international community. Realising this goal requires fruitful and sincere cooperation among regional states in solidarity with friends and brothers who want to see peace and stability," he said.

More on Policy

JN0602134293 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 6 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] this morning opened the first Federal National Council's [FNC] ordinary session within its ninth legislative term. [passage omitted]

In his address at the FNC's opening sesion, His Highness Shaykh Zayid affirmed that the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] actually embodies the wishes and aspirations of the inhabitants of the Gulf region for integration to confront all the challenges and developments.

In the address Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan delivered on his behalf, Shaykh Zayid said that the GCC succeeded in proving in the most difficult circumstances that it is capable of overcoming obstacles and crises thanks to the wisdom and understanding of its leaders and thanks to the solidarity and cohesion existing among its people.

He affirmed that the GCC is neither an axis nor a bloc against anyone but that it is a necessary platform for the enhancement of cooperation and solidarity among the countries in the region to ward off the threats that engulf them, to unite their stands, safeguard their common interests, and realize their pan-Arab aspirations.

His highness affirmed that the UAE views the continued occupation by Iran of the three UAE islands of Tunb al-Kubra and Tunb al-Sughra and Abu-Musa and its nonabidance by the memorandum of understanding over Abu-Musa island as a violation of the UAE's sovereignty and territorial intergrity, and a destablization of peace and security in the region, not to mention that it also violates the declared intention of developing relations between the two countries, and conflicts with the principles on which relations among countries are based.

His highness affirmed that developing friendship and cooperation between the two countries depends on confidence-building and the measures that Iran will adopt and that will be in line with the principles of international law, God's book, the sayings of his Prophet, and international conventions, as well as its respect for the UAE's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

On the Arab level, His Highness Shaykh Zayid praised the Damascus Declaration. He said that the UAE has welcomed it as an effective framework for fraternal cooperation and solidarity to serve collective Arab security and to be a nucleus for a new Arab order within the Arab League.

His highness indicated that he made persistent calls at all forums and on all fronts for a sincere Arab-Islamic awakening in view of the current circumstances in this extremely important phase in history. He pointed out that these circumstances require recalling the lessons of the past and reviving future aspirations. He affirmed that this can only be achieved through commitment to pledges, honoring promises, setting specific standards for action in the present, and planning for the future.

On the Palestine question, His Highness Shaykh Zayid, president of the UAE, strongly condemned the continued Israeli repressive actions and the occupation authorities' deportation of hundreds of the sons of the occupied territories. He stressed the need to implement the UN Security Council resolution in this regard.

His highness also expressed his country's concern over the situation in fraternal Somalia. Indicating the situation in Bosnia- Hercegovina, his highness expressed the UAE's regret over the continued deterioration of the situation there and the commission of the most heinous crimes. His highness urged the international community to take immediate and decisive measures to put an end to these massacres.

On the international level, his highness affirmed that the UAE believes that the success of the new world order depends on the prevalence of justice and international legitimacy in the world.

He said that this requires that double standards not be allowed to govern the way UN Security Council resolutions are implemented. He said this also requires a firm, unified stance by the international community to immediately implement these resolutions.

The inaugural session was followed by a working session to elect a council speaker and vice speaker, and to form the council's eight committees.

Yemen

Japanese Expert Freed; Canadian Still Held

NC0702101293 Paris AFP in English 0901 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Report by Jean-Eudes Barbier]

[Text] Sanaa, Feb 7 (AFP)—Yemeni tribes have abducted two foreigners in the past month in a bid to pressure the government to meet social and other demands, in the latest cycle of crime targetting expatriates.

A Japanese irrigation expert who was held for four days by tribesmen from the Dhinm region, 70 kilometers (40 miles) east of Sanaa, was released on Saturday, reliable Yemeni sources said.

The unnamed expert was kidnapped in a bid to pressure the Yemeni Government to include their region in an irrigation project upon which the Japanese was working, they said. A Yemeni abducted with him was also set free.

The Japanese was working on a project to build small dams, financed by the Tokyo government under a bilateral cooperation agreement.

Mike Schmitz, employed by the Canadian navigation firm Sterling Services, was seized on January 24 on the Sanaa-Aden road by members of the al-Hada tribe and is held in Zarajah village, 100 kilometers (62 miles) east of Sanaa.

Schmitz's, according to tribal sources, "will not be released in the immediate future." Al-Hida has already rejected a compensation offer by the government and the mediation effort of another tribe has failed to bear fruit.

Tribal sources said he was "well treated" and would be released only after the authorities turned over to al-Hada tribe two Army officers the group accuses of murdering of one of their tribesmen.

Sources here said the authorities transferred the two officers abroad for their own protection.

The Yemeni authorities have little control over the heavily-armed tribesmen who reign as absolute rulers over their own regions and frequently resort to violence to pressure the government into meeting their demands.

"There is no need to dramatise, at least not yet," said a diplomat in Sanaa. But he added that this phenomenon underlined the government's "inability to impose its will."

The abductions have coincided with an increase in highway robberies.

SAIRI Quits Opposition Conference in Irbil

LD0602170093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has left the Irbil Conference, which consisted of all the opposition forces against Saddam's regime. SAIRI leader Hojjat ol- Eslam val Moslemin Hakim announced this news today, saying: Unfortunately, some of the opposition groups participating in the Irbil Conference have, either knowingly or unknowingly, acted in such a way as to lead to certain problems at this conference.

Pointing out that the majority of the Muslim Iraqi people are Shiites and that the representatives participating in this conference must be appointed with consideration to this population make-up, he stressed that unfortunately this principle was not adhered to. "Therefore, we decided to leave the conference."

He added: We hope a new conference with a new composition can be the source for greater services in maintaining the unity and solidarity of Iraqi opposition groups.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hakim proposed that a new and more limited committee should be set up.

More on Reasons

LD0602193393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Excerpt] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] has left the conference currently being held in Irbil by the opponents of the Iraqi regime.

SAIRI leader Ayatollah Hakim told our correspondent in this connection: The Assembly proposed a specific strategy with five points to the conference for the purpose of creating unity between the groups opposed to the Iraqi regime. He added: This strategy was delineated in talks with the leaders of Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Turkey, and the Islamic Republic of Iran, but was opposed by some of the groups. [passage omitted]

Iran Warned of Right To Respond to Attacks

JN0702121393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Feb (INA)—Iraq has protested a series of attacks by infiltrators from Iran on 11 and 16 January. The Iraqi Foreign Ministry today summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires and communicated this protest to him. A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry told INA that on 11 January 1993, Iranian infiltrators opened fire on an Iraqi car. On 16 January, infiltrators from Iran attacked a bus. The source added that the Iranian charge d'affaires has been warned against the repeat of such acts of sabotage. It was affirmed to him that Iraq reserves its full right to respond to the attacks at the appropriate time and in the appropriate manner.

Saddam Attends Cabinet Meeting, Issues Directives

JN0602192093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, chaired part of the Council of Ministers' meeting this morning in the presence of Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi and Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz. During the meeting, the leader president gave valuable instructions and made important remarks about the performance of state institutions, the reconstruction drive, the coming agricultural season, and some negative social phenomena.

Commentating on masked unemployment, His Excellency said: There are general and circumstantial criteria, and we should not consider the special and present circumstances apart from the general one or remain captive to the criteria of the general circumstances. Before talking about unemployment or masked unemployment, we have to realize that there is a difference between state salaries and wages in the private sector. [passage omitted]

Our responsibility now is a psychological, political, and economic one, and reconstruction is a continuing campaign, not only for economic reasons but also for psychological and political reasons. Reconstruction of what was destroyed by the evil aggressors is our window to the future and is also a counterattack against the aggressors. Our fight against the aggressors was unequal from the material point of view. An average of 3,000 aircraft raided Iraq every day. But the first thing the enemies immediately saw was our ability to reconstruct, and this startled them. During our war, while we were repulsing the Iranian aggression, the same picture and the same capability were not demonstrated. But during the Mother of Battles, the capability was present and clear to both enemies and friends.

Therefore, the economy is not the only factor. Although we wanted quick reconstruction with good workmanship, we did not want speed at the expense of good workmanship. You also remember that we raised the slogan of rebuilding everything destroyed by the aggression as it was before or even better. This slogan was actually applied to numerous areas. Moreover, reconstruction was accompanied by the building of new projects which did not exist before. For example, we have not recently rationalized the distribution of oil byproducts because we did not need to do that. His Excellency said: It is natural for us to award quick and good workmanship. This is what is taking place now. But we should also reduce dissipation to its lowest level through practical means.

It is true that over the past two years we have achieved what would normally take a quarter century. But it is unreasonable for us to continue at the same pace. Help comes from Almighty God. What is important, O my brothers, is how to maintain the zealous labor spirit

displayed by the Iraqis over these last two years. The Iraqi, as you know, thrives on challenge and bears atomic bombs [qanabil dharriyah]. I am afraid that this will fade away after the blockade is lifted, and I do not mean lifting the economic blockade. Therefore, we have to maintain that spirit despite the aggressors and their agents and despite backwardness, in honor of the souls of our martyrs, who sacrificed for the sake of this homeland and the Arab nation's strength. [passage omitted]

Leader President Saddam Husayn then touched on the issue of wheat and barley harvests during the coming season, and His Excellency directed that revenues and services be mobilized in areas and farms all over Iraq; that the party's cadres, members, and supporters help in this endeavor; and that the Council of Ministers draw up a mode of action for this purpose so as to secure a complete harvest in the next season without any dissipation or waste. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi welcomed leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, when His Excellency arrived to attend the cabinet meeting. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers decided to form a ministerial committee under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi to carry out the leader president's instructions on the agricultural sector, and also formed another ministerial committee chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz to follow up on negative social phenomena. The Council of Ministers also discussed its ordinary agenda and adopted necessary decisions and recommendations.

Saddam Chairs Army, Air Force Meeting 6 Feb

JN0602114493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, today chaired a meeting made up of fighters Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Revolution Command Council and defense minister; Staff General Iyad Futayyih Khalifah al-Rawi, Army chief of staff; Air Force Staff Lieutenant General Muzahim Sa'b al-Hasan, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense; and a number of senior officers of Army, Air Force, and Air Defense Command.

Resistance Claims 2 'Successful' Attacks on Regime

NC0702162093 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] The popular forces carried out heroic attacks against forces of tyrant Saddam Husayn positioned on two points of the earth barrier in al-Majarr al-Kabir's marshland. Resistance sources yesterday issued a statement saying that the popular forces waged successful attacks on the forces of the ostracized regime in (Najjarah) and (Karmaliyah) and inflicted on them heavy losses in life and equipment. The sources said that a large number of the tyrant regime's personnel were killed or wounded. Six military vehicles were also destroyed.

Ramadan on 'Positive' Visit to Algeria, Jordan

JN0602153293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Feb (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, personal envoy of President Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council member, and vice president, has returned to Baghdad, along with his accompanying delegation, after a five-day visit to Algeria and Jordan.

In a statement to INA, Taha Yasin Ramadan said he carried messages from President Saddam Husayn to his brothers Ali Kafi, chairman of the Algerian Higher State Council, and His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The messages, he said, express the satisfaction of Iraq—leadership and people—with the good relations with these countries, as well as Iraq's eagerness to promote them in all areas. They also touch on developments in the Arab nation and the need for fruitful, effective Arab action to confront all designs at harming the Arab nation's unity and progress.

He added that the chairman of the Algerian Higher State Council and the Jordanian monarch had stressed their pride in existing relations with Iraq, their eagerness to strengthen them, and their appreciation for the heroic struggle of the Iraqi leadership and people, for the construction pursued by the Iraqis, and for the Iraqis' challenge of the unjust blockade and their adherence to the unity of their land and people.

The vice president said that he had briefed leaders and officials in Jordan and Algeria on Iraq's rejection of all the aggressive resolutions [not further identified]. He added that he discussed with the brother officials of the two fraternal countries Iraq's relations with Jordan and Algeria, as well as the possibility of expanded cooperation with them. He stressed that officials of the three fraternal countries agree on the need to promote these relations and continue meetings in all areas and on all levels to achieve the joint interests and our Arab nation's goals.

Taha Yasin Ramadan described his visits to Algeria and Jordan as positive and very successful, and as having established new groundwork for present and future cooperation. He also expressed his great satisfaction with the two fraternal countries' pride in Iraq's firm positions, as well as their support for them.

Kuwaiti 'Grudge' May Prompt 'Serious Action'

JN0702122093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Feb (INA)—BABIL has said that the al-Sabah family's escalating grudge against the Iraqi people and the Arab nation will further isolate this family, expose its treasonous nature, and prompt a serious action to remove this cancerous growth from the

nation's body. In an editorial entitled "Al-Sabah Family's Grudge and the Required Remedy" by Nuri Najm al-Marsumi, the newspaper adds that the al-Sabah family—which was installed by foreigners in Kuwait to act as a guard for their interests—has sold the foreigners all that is left of Kuwait. What concerns this family is the continued flow of fortune to its members, who are scattered in European and U.S. cities as investors, property owners, and fornicators. The paper continues: When they are called to account either by the nation or by our brothers in Kuwait, everything will be ready for an organized, fast escape in the event of an internal or external danger. They will not stay in Kuwait, which is supposed to be their homeland. The paper calls on the rulers imposed on Kuwait to return to their senses if they have any senses left and to abandon the hostile policies and stands adopted two and a half years ago. It says that the foreign powers, regardless of the humiliating treaties and pacts concluded with them and regardless of the bribes which were paid and will be paid to them, cannot protect this or that regime indefinitely.

Paper Condemns Rafsanjani-Kuwaiti Minister Meeting

JN0702111093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Feb (INA)—An Iraqi paper has condemned the head of the Iranian regime's reception of a member of the family imposed on Kuwait.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says in a column today that what is amazing in this meeting is Rafsanjani's remarks to the al-Sabah minister on the need for compliance with UN resolutions, forgetting that his regime had refused to abide by UN Security Council resolutions for eight years.

The paper adds that if Rafsanjani's memory has deteriorated to this extent, then it would be useless to remind him that those in Tehran swallowed the "cup of venom" and declared their acceptance of Resolution 598 only after an entire year had elapsed on its issuance.

The paper reminds the al-Sabah minister and his brother "Yabir" [Jabir, amir of Kuwait—sarcastically changing "J" into "Y" to correspond to Kuwaiti Arabic accent] of the size and nature of the Iranian role, which had one day forced "Yabir" to hide under the seat of his official car. The paper says: It is not surprising that the al-Sabah minister be accorded such hospitality by Rafsanjani since both sides are two links in one scheme and since both have been recruited to serve the same master.

Hammadi Meets PLO Executive Committee Member

JN0402171193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Feb (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi today received PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani. During the meeting, they discussed the best formulas that could be employed in the existing cultural and media cooperation between Iraq and the PLO.

The meeting was attended by Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad 'Azzam al-Ahmad.

Paper Says Articles Reflect Writers' Viewpoints

JN0702103693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Feb (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has said that Iraqi writers are free to treat both Arab and international issues according to their own individual standpoints.

In its "Free Opinions" column, the newspaper criticizes some foreign parties' objection to articles written by Iraqi writers, saying that such articles do not reflect Iraq's official viewpoint. The paper explains that the state has its own official spokesmen and mass media which reflect the state's official views.

The paper stresses that the official Iraqi stand is based on a firm and clear belief in the freedom of expression. The paper says that when it expresses its principled stands on Arab or international issues, Iraq never appeases any party. Therefore, the paper says, Iraq does not need to voice its stands through writers and journalists.

AL-QADISIYAH highlights the contradictory stands of some parties objecting to Iraqi writers' views on their policies. The paper explains that the objecting parties allow their writers to write whatever they want, irrespective of whether they express their own views or receive money from abroad in return for what they write against Iraq.

The paper draws these parties' attention to the fact that the Iraqi Foreign Ministry or any official Iraqi department has never summoned the ambassador of any state to ask for an interpretation of what his country's journalists write against Iraq. Moreover, the paper says, the heads of some of these states that object to Iraqi writers' views constantly make aggressive statements against Iraq and its leadership.

AL-QADISIYAH expresses amazement at the Turkish Foreign Ministry's summoning of the Iraqi ambassador in Ankara to protest free opinions that have been published by the newspaper BABIL concerning the Turkish policy toward Iraq. The paper says that Iraq has never protested the negative, hostile articles written by Turkish papers. The paper says that if Iraq wanted to respond to an official Turkish statement, it would declare in its response that it is an official statement that reflects the state's point of view.

Protest Lodged Over Butrus-Ghali-PLO Meeting

TA0602084293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Israel has lodged a protest with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali over his meeting with Dr. Nasir al-Qidwah, the PLO's UN observer, to plead with him that the Palestinians go back to the peace talks. The meeting came in the wake of a request by leaders of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, who asked Butrus-Ghali to intercede with the Palestinians.

Our Washington correspondent Arye Golan reports that Israel's UN Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi sent a message to Butrus-Ghali expressing astonishment at the fact that the UN secretary general did not approach the head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks instead.

It has been learned from Israel's UN delegation that the U.S. Jewish leaders did not ask Butrus-Ghali to relay any message to the PLO, and that the meeting was a private UN initiative.

Peace Talks Team Leaves for U.S; Shoval Comments

TA0702055493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] The heads of the Israeli delegation negotiating with the Jordanians and Palestinians leave today for consultations in Washington to prepare for the next round of peace talks. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says Israel initiated the idea to begin direct contacts with the new U.S. Administration. The Israeli team, led by Elyaqim Rubinstein and Dani Rothschild, will meet with a number of U.S. officials, including the head of the Middle East section in the State Department, Edward Djerejian. Our reporter adds that the United States and Egypt are trying to persuade the Palestinians to return to the negotiations before April.

In Washington, reporter Connie Lonn asked Israel's outgoing Ambassador Zalman Shoval whether he thought the Palestinians would take part when peace talks resume.

[Begin recording] [Shoval] Why should we talk about hypothetical eventualities? I am totally convinced that the peace talks will resume before too long. Whether it takes another month or two weeks more or less is not the main thing. I believe that the Palestinians will also have the good sense to understand that if they were to withdraw from the process which, after all, they stand most to gain from, more than anybody else, they would stand more to lose by not participating in it and, I believe, they will draw the right conclusions. They will not, hopefully anyway, prevent by their activities or inactivity other parties to go back to the negotiating table.

[Lonn] Don't you think the Arab countries will stand firm behind Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and boycott the talks?

[Shoval] Well, I would think not. After all, Hamas is an organization which endangers not only the peace process, but they and their ideological brethren, so to say, endanger most of the countries in the Middle East. So, while the Arab countries, of course, would not openly say so or declare it in any way, they understand and realize the problems we are facing and have been facing and they will not let the peace process be derailed because of a few hundred terrorists.

[Lonn] Has the Clinton administration been taking the correct steps towards Israel?

[Shoval] Well, I think so. I think the Clinton administration's attitude and way of dealing with this whole crisis has been exemplary. I think Israel is very complimentary of what the Clinton administration has done, not just wisely from the point of view of the future of peace in the Middle East but also from the point of view of its close alliance and friendship with the State of Israel. [end recording]

Developments in Palestinian Deportee Issue Reported

Vow of No More Deportations Said Planned

TA0702055093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Israel will propose that the current president of the Security Council declare in Israel's name that it will not carry out deportations in the future. Israel hopes this statement will forestall any censure resolution of the Council. This is reported by Qol Yisra'el's political affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz. He says that officially Israel is making it clear that it has endorsed the U.S. proposal, according to which there is no need for any further action by the Security Council after the package deal worked out by Washington and Jerusalem had been presented them.

The Council is due to meet on Tuesday to discuss the deportee affair. The current Council chairman is the Moroccan ambassador.

Pledge on Deportations Denied

TA0702112793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Excerpt] The Prime Minister's Office says Israel is not ready to pledge that it will no longer carry out deportations. The denial is in response to an Israel Radio report this morning that Israel would agree to such a statement from the president of the UN Security Council. David Ze'ev reports:

[Ze'ev] At the Prime Minister's Office, advisers to Yitzhaq Rabin say the premier is not about ready to

retract his statements of last week that Israel reserves the right to deport again if it deems it necessary and that the precedent for mass deportations remains intact.

According to diplomatic sources in Jerusalem, efforts have been under way for several days to try to soften any Security Council resolution that might eventually be presented before the council. The United States, the sources say, is leading the effort with the assistance of Russia and apparently Britain as well. As one source at the Prime Minister's Office put it, what will eventually happen we cannot be sure about, but we want something we can live with. [passage omitted]

Protest Held at U.S. Consulate

TA0702055893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Several hundred supporters of the Victims of Arab Terror Organization demonstrated last night outside the prime minister's residence and the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem. Carrying torches, they marched from the tent they have set up near the Prime Minister's Office to protest what they called the government's capitulation over the deportee issue.

Rabin on Deportee Deal

TA0502205493 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1830 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Yisra'el Segal on 5 February in the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—recorded]

[Text] [Segal] Sir, Israel today issued the list of 101 deportees who can return if they want to. Where did you make a mistake in this affair? When you first decided to expel the 415 deportees or today when you are bringing some of them back?

[Rabin] I believe that both decisions the government made, at my recommendation, were right. The decision on the temporary removal of over 400 of the leaders of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad—the instigators and organizers of these organizations, which formed the infrastructure for terrorist actions and the efforts to sabotage the chances for peace. The expulsion together with the arrest of another 1,000 Hamas members was a severe blow to the organization. We have not destroyed it, and with time it could recover, although we will do everything we can to make sure that it does not have the ability to once again do what it did in the past year. The High Court of Justice approved the removal, and I will not go into the legal technicalities. Taking into account the international circumstances, I wanted to achieve something else, an understanding, not an agreement, with the U.S. Administration, which would pave the way for advancing the peace negotiations after having dealt the blow to Hamas.

One of the problems troubling the Arab world today is the precedent of an Israeli-American understanding, due to which a Security Council meeting did not take place, as they would have liked. What else do they say? That this is also a precedent in reference to Resolutions 242 and 338, which they regard as a grave move. Furthermore, they claim that the Americans and Israelis have reached an understanding without including them in it. I am not trying to hide the fact that in order to reach the understanding, I made a compromise. I am not trying to cover that up. But I see it as part of the overall picture: the blow, withstanding the court appeal, the compromise and understanding with America, which I believe will pave the way for advancing the peace.

[Segal] That means that opposition claims that it is yet another sign of your inability to withstand pressures are incorrect?

[Rabin] They should not talk rubbish.

[Segal] Talk rubbish?

[Rabin] Yes, quite simply, rubbish.

[Segal] When we carried out the initial expulsion, did we not know that the administration was going to change in Washington?

[Rabin] We knew that we were making an unprecedented move. Which government in the past 20 years was prepared to expel or remove temporarily 25, not to mention 400, people? I felt at the time a need to level an immediate, tough blow on Hamas that went beyond everything done previously. I achieved that aim, whether it involves 300 or 400. I do not, however, ignore the fact that I made a compromise at the third stage, after the expulsion, after the court ruling, in order to pave the way for the future.

[Segal] Talking about the future, we are now told that the peace negotiations can be expected to resume in April. Invitations have not been issued yet. The meetings of the arms control committees have been canceled. That does not look like such a rosy picture when discussing the peace process.

[Rabin] Permit me to say that I felt in the last stages of the negotiations that we were running in place. There was no real movement, especially in the bilateral talks, because the multilateral arms control talks can be dealt with in five years, since we know that nothing will come out of them anyway. I think that the time is needed to give us the opportunity to try, together with the Americans and others, to study the problem better in order to start negotiations in the existing formats in April, with a better chance of advancing the peace.

[Segal] Talking about the negotiations and the peace process, with your permission, I would like to move on to another affair which caused a storm in your party this week. I am referring to Knesset Member [MK] Ya'el Dayan's trip to Tunis. Your voice has not been heard on the matter.

[Rabin] I made my opinion heard. We have primaries in Labor now, so each member is trying to make headlines. That is the outcome of the primary system. The problem is how to get on television. Therefore, a Knesset member has to do something unusual based on his outlook. The law [no longer banning meetings with the PLO] was amended in the Knesset and she went. The contribution made by such a trip by her or anybody else is nil. I did not see that in the wake of her visit the PLO is less extremist in its approach to renewing the negotiations, or imposing sanctions on Israel, on which it is in fact more extremist than all the Arab countries. So, she was photographed with him [PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat]. Did anything political come of it? No.

[Segal] Permit me to deal with domestic matters. MK Hagay Merom said this week, and I quote: There is fear in the cabinet; it is not good to see fear in the cabinet. Mr. Prime Minister, are you the cause of that fear?

[Rabin] Since MK Merom has never participated in cabinet meetings, he does not know what happens there. He is simply talking without knowing anything. I understand his frustration, he was not elected to various posts, that is natural. It also has internal party ramifications. Everything he said is ridiculous.

[Segal] It is interesting that when you talk about MK's, you constantly put the blame on personal considerations. One wants a headline, another is frustrated because he did not get a job. They are simply doing their work, they are elected by the public.

[Rabin] Permit me to state my view. I believe it unjustifiably attacks cabinet ministers. The cabinet debates are open, people make their views heard.

[Segal] Even in the cabinet meeting in which you attacked Justice Minister David Liba'i?

[Rabin] Excuse me, when did I attack Liba'i?

[Segal] You cut him off, you told him to come to the point.

[Rabin] In all debates, and that is how a government should behave, each minister should and does say whatever he thinks. Once a decision is made, and not all decisions have been made unanimously....[changes thought] We sat in this room one Friday and the vote was eight to six, with two abstentions. A decision was made. It is inconceivable that once a decision is made for a cabinet member to attack it. I referred to that. If a cabinet member feels he is incapable of bearing collective responsibility for cabinet decisions, nobody forces him to keep sitting on his ministerial chair. The door is open. Whoever is incapable of taking it, does not possess elementary public honesty.

[Segal] But does the fact that he is a member of the cabinet and abstains, from a vote on the expulsion for example, rule out the right to explain his position?

[Rabin] Publicly yes, he must support the government decision.

[Segal] Although he abstained?

[Rabin] That has nothing to do with it, even if he voted against, otherwise the government would be unable to function. Even in the cabinet vote of eight in favor and six against, the six defended the cabinet decision.

[Segal] Sir, let us say there is no fear, and ministers freely express their opinion, but do you think there are snafus?

[Rabin] There might be snafus, but less than in previous governments because this government made two tough decisions, the first on the expulsion and the second on the compromise. The ministers, except for perhaps one, stood behind it, and explained it to the public. I want to express my appreciation to the Meretz ministers who were partners to the decision on the expulsion and faced their own public, who attacked them for it. They understand what collective responsibility by cabinet ministers means. One Labor member should have the same understanding of what collective responsibility means.

[Segal] There is an impression that there are tensions, to use an understatement, in the cabinet, that there is a lack of ease.

[Rabin] I think that most ministers feel very comfortable.

[Segal] What about the poll we took [among ministers, prior to the 1 February cabinet decision, in which most ministers supported a compromise on the deportation decision]? Does that not show something?

[Rabin] I regretted it, and I believe most ministers regret it. It is part of the lesson learned by novice ministers. It is their first six months in a cabinet, and mistakes occur.

[Segal] Thank you.

Peres Denies 'Deal' With U.S.

TA0702123193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by correspondent Shlomo Raz after a cabinet meeting on the deportation issue on 7 February; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Peres] The proposal was made by the United States, and Israel accepted it. The United States should be allowed to carry it through.

[Raz] Will Israel agree to further compromise, if required?

[Peres] What am I? A harbinger of compromise? Why should we announce things like that? I see no need to make such declarations.

[Raz] Then you confirm that the deal was made between Israel and the United States and that the problem is between these two countries?

[Peres] There is no deal. Having made its proposal, the United States took it upon itself to settle this issue, and Israel accepted its offer.

[Raz] Mr. Peres, the past weekend was very turbulent, with a considerable number of fatalities in the territories. Does this require new cabinet resolutions?

[Peres] Three of the fatalities were terrorists. What has happened has benefited security. However, there is an ongoing discussion of various aspects of the situation, and to the best of my knowledge both the Israeli Defense Forces and the government check themselves to prevent such occurrences to the extent possible.

[Raz] Another question, with your permission: Senator Leahy is about to arrive, and the issue of an aid cut may be discussed. What is the Israeli position on this matter?

[Peres] Israel is opposed to any cut. In fact, inflation has already eroded the aid to Israel. The real value of the aid has declined by 30 percent since 1985.

No U.S. Compensation Demand Seen

TA0602122793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Israel's new ambassador, Itamar Rabinovich, takes over his post in Washington on Monday. Before leaving Israel, Rabinovich told reporter Le'a Zinder that despite some of the Arab rhetoric, he believes it's only a matter of time before the peace talks get back on the rails.

[Begin Rabinovich recording] By coming to an understanding with the United States we achieved something very important. We determined that response to the question of whether the peace talks are resumed, and when and how, will be taken away from the removees and from Yasir 'Arafat and placed in the hands of those who want a peace process. One of the more disturbing aspects of the previous weeks, of this unfolding crisis, was that any gesture and any offer were to be either accepted or rejected by the group on the hill in southern Lebanon. By working out an understanding with the Clinton administration, Israel has also shifted the locus of the decisionmaking on this from that hill in southern Lebanon to Washington, which was a great and an important step forward. In this respect, it is less material what 'Arafat says and does.

I think one of the important dimensions or elements of the present joint U.S.-Israeli policy is to build a consensus to which 'Arafat will have to adapt himself, rather than face a situation where a lack of consensus leaves in a drift of Arab opinion in the direction of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and for that matter, 'Arafat. [end recording] [passage omitted on U.S. Jewish lobbyist's remarks on Israeli Television that this week's coordination between Jerusalem and Washington augurs well]

On this score, Ambassador Rabinovich says Israel made her contribution.

[Begin Rabinovich recording] I think that what we actually saw was not just a simple-minded pro-Israeli position. We saw a rather subtle and sophisticated American policy which, on the one hand, signals that there is a close relationship, an alliance partnership between Israel and the United States which is the case and which is nothing to be ashamed of. In the second place, the United States does not automatically accept any Israeli position and in the give and take between the Clinton administration and the Israeli Government Israel made several concessions to the United States. [end recording]

But, is there not a risk that the U.S. will eventually ask compensation from Israel for getting her off the hook? Itamar Rabinovich says he is not concerned about this.

[Begin Rabinovich recording] I am not worried fundamentally that the United States will either want to pay or would want to ask Israel to pay in hard currency for soft goods. And, the distinction is the following: The negotiations are the core of the matter, and they require hard currency. The question of the removees and the problem of the last weeks was a technical problem. One can pay a technical currency or soft currency for technical problems. It would be a mistake, it will be erroneous to use, I'd say, assets that should have been reserved for the negotiations and to use them, or spend them, or to waste them just for making the negotiations possible. I think that if this peace process is to take us anywhere it must be clear to us that our Arab negotiating partners are interested; they don't have to be bought off in order to come to the negotiations, they should be interested. If they are not interested, then I think it doesn't bode well for the negotiations. [end recording]

Rabin Denies U.S. Pressure

TA0702163993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at today's cabinet session denied reports of U.S. pressure on Israel for additional compromises regarding the deportees. The Meretz ministers protested the rise in Palestinian fatalities in the territories, but the prime minister replied that there had been no change in the rules of engagement in the territories. Political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

[Begin recording] [Gutman] The cabinet was not asked today to find new solutions for the deportee crisis. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin assured the ministers that the package deal authorized by the cabinet on Monday still held. Rabin also categorically denied the reports of U.S. pressure on Israel to accept additional compromises in light of the continuing deadlock surrounding the deportee affair. Rabin also denied reports that the United States was angered by his assertion that Israel might carry out deportations in the future again. The cabinet held no serious discussion on the deportee issue today, but the situation in the territories was debated at

length. Following the death of six Palestinians in the Gaza Strip over the weekend, Education Minister Shulamit Aloni asked what was happening in the territories:

[Aloni] They tried to explain each individual case. The general picture is very worrying, because the other side is also making much greater use of firearms. Nevertheless, we urge far more caution be employed.

[Gutman] Minister Yosi Sarid joined Aloni's protestations about the rise in fatalities in the territories and said that even if the rules of engagement had not been changed on paper, they were clearly different in the field, and the recent upsurge in fatalities constituted adequate proof of that. Sarid called for more caution when shooting at rioters who were not wanted fugitives. Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur told the Meretz ministers angrily that they should not lose their sense of proportion:

[Tzur] We should not divide the cabinet into those who are concerned about this matter and those who do not care. Nor should we portray some ministers as being more patriotic than others. One should take a realistic look at the situation. That is how we should act and how we should evaluate Israeli Defense Force behavior.

[Gutman] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stressed that the rules of engagement in the territories had not been changed. Rabin spoke of the anguish the soldiers feel when they learn they have shot at innocent people and proposed that the ministers go and talk to the troops in the territories.

Education Minister Shulamit Aloni asked Major General Dani Rothschild, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, to check which of the Meretz recommendations for easing the living conditions of the Palestinians in the territories had been implemented. Among the proposals made several months ago: the reunification of families, issuing construction permits, canceling restriction orders, canceling levies, encouraging entrepreneurship in the territories, etc.

Maj. Gen. Rothschild told the cabinet that many of the proposals had been implemented. He promised that in the coming sessions the ministers would be briefed in detail on the measures implemented to ease living conditions for the Palestinians in the territories. [end recording]

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1630 GMT on 7 February carries the following Cairo-datelined report: "Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador to Egypt, has denied that the PLO has accepted the Israeli proposal to allow some deportees to return to the occupied territories. Kamal was responding to a report broadcast by Moscow radio in its English language newscast alleging that in accordance with the Israeli proposal 100 deportees will be returned in the next few days while the others will be allowed to return gradually over a one-year period."]

Deal on Deportees Said To Bind U.S.

TA0702064893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Telephone interview with Communications and Police Minister Moshe Shahal by Hayim Zissowitz—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Good morning, Minister Shahal.

[Shahal] Good morning, Hayim.

[Zissowitz] There are increasing signs that Israel's consent to return 100 deportees will not suffice. Are you able to tell us that the affair is definitely over?

[Shahal] The accord with the United States has undoubtedly put an end to the need for Israel to agree to anything further. The United States said that the accord did not depend on anything any third party would do, because it was clear even then that some deportees, or certain elements in Arab countries might reject our accord with the United States. The advantage of the accord lay in the fact that by conceiving it, the United States—the most important and influential element—was stating that the affair would come to an end and that it viewed the return of the 100 and the reduction of deportation terms as implementation of Security Council Resolution 799.

[Zissowitz] Yet already this morning there were reports saying that the United States itself is going to demand additional Israeli gestures in a bid to allow the resumption of peace talks.

[Shahal] I have heard the news, but I have not heard anything quite so specific; it may be an interpretation. As far as the Israeli Government is concerned, there was an accord and that accord was to have been the end of this affair. As far as we are concerned, our willingness to return 101 people and to reduce the deportation terms of others signifies the implementation of the agreement between us and the United States. It will bind the United States, which promised to take action to prevent a harsh resolution in international bodies.

[Zissowitz] Yet a headline in today's MA'ARIV—to cite just one newspaper—says the Clinton administration is furious over Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements on this matter. Apparently, the cabinet decision on a compromise was not enough.

[Shahal] I think the Israeli Government has done what it had to do to emphasize certain very important parameters of its policy. We have great interest in holding realistic political negotiations, but there is no way we can give up our right to guarantee the security of Israeli citizens—security, as well as the removal of people trying to sabotage the peace process.

[Zissowitz] Do we know for certain that the United States will interfere and veto sanctions at the Security Council session slated for this week?

[Shahal] The agreement between us guaranteed that the United States will take action to prevent operational

anti-Israeli resolutions in international bodies. I am positive the United States will do everything to prevent a resolution concerning an act or a threat of an act against Israel.

Furthermore, I think we have to convey a clear message that our moves to safeguard our security were made within the framework of our commitments, and that it was, is, and always will be our right to take such action even if the world, even if some of those who convey double messages, are not pleased with us. When have we ever been spoiled by international forums? This time, I believe the deportees' unwillingness to accept our offer will bring about a change in international attitude. We have heard that numerous countries besides the United States see no room for additional action on the part of Israel in this case.

[Zissowitz] Except for France, which joined the recommendation to denounce Israel for the deportations.

[Shahal] The French had their own proposal, although it seemed at a certain moment that they decided to take it off the agenda. There are, however, six other important Security Council members who do not think a resolution denouncing Israel should be endorsed. On the contrary, they believe this matter should be resolved, and I think the solution we proposed is one that meets expectations and suits the current international situation. You can see that Arab countries, as well as the Palestinians, are now speaking of returning to the political negotiations, deportees' displeasure notwithstanding.

[Zissowitz] Have you heard the Arab countries speak of returning to the negotiating table? They have so far rejected every suggestion on this matter.

[Shahal] People conversant with the issue know that there has been no talk of a termination of negotiations with countries which matter to us, such as Syria and Jordan, and the Palestinians too. Bassam Abu-Sharif's statement was no accident or personal opinion; it reflected a certain situation. We must not forget what the issue is about. It is about Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad, which wage a struggle against most Arab countries. These countries' unrelenting battle against fundamentalism is waged at home, not in international forums, and we have examples of the means these countries use.

[Zissowitz] Minister Shahal, thank you very much.

[Shahal] Thank you.

No More Gestures Planned

TA0702073493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik]

[Text] Following the deportee spokesman's repeated rejection of the Israeli-U.S. package deal for the return of 101 deportees, defense elements have said the affair has reached an impasse. They stressed that no additional gestures toward the deportees are being considered at this point.

Two questions seem open this morning: Will they return, and how will they return? The defense establishment has not made a firm decision yet on the logistics of the deportees' return, but defense elements believe that if the 101 signal willingness to leave the encampment, the return process will be aided by the International Red Cross.

In any event, Civil Administration officials in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza have informed the 101 deportees' families of the permission to return to Israel. The Southern and Central Commands' commanding officers have approved an about 50-percent reduction of the remaining 300 deportees' deportation terms. Apparently those who return will be placed initially in lockup facilities, where they will be interrogated. Any decision on further steps will be decided afterward.

Five Deportees Taken to Army Base

TA0702131393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Israel returned five deportees today. Sources in Tyre reported that the five were transferred from the hospital in Marj 'Uyun to the South Lebanese security zone, and our correspondent Yo'av Aviv adds that from there they were taken to an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] base in northern Israel.

Deportees To Return by End of 1993

TA0802104693 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Feb 93 p 5

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] In an interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT yesterday, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the last of the deportees would return to the territories by the end of the year. Rabin said that was the understanding reached with the U.S. Administration and there would be no further concessions regarding the return of the deportees.

Rabin added that contrary to the reports which appeared in MA'ARIV yesterday, there was complete understanding between him and administration officials regarding the resolution of the deportee affair. "Over the weekend, I learned that Faysal al-Husayni had reported some of my remarks on the deportees to U.S. officials. He mislead them regarding the content of my statements. When we were approached by the administration on what I had purportedly said: that the United States supported the Israeli position on the deportations; I instructed that the full transcript of my speech at the Knesset plenum several days ago, in which I pointed out that the United States is opposed to the deportations, be sent to the administration.

The prime minister added that yesterday he had been forced to firmly deny reports on the radio, according to which Israel had promised the Security Council that in future, it would refrain from carrying out deportations as part of its war against terrorism. "I promised no one that I would refrain from deporting inciters and terrorists," Rabin said.

Egyptian Envoy Urges End to Issue

TA0802122393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Speaking a short while ago at a news conference in Haifa, Muhammad Basyuni, the Egyptian ambassador in Israel, said that Egypt was trying to bridge the gaps between the positions of the various parties on the deportee crisis, and to find a solution that would be acceptable to all sides. Basyuni said that Egypt hoped to resolve the issue before it was brought before the United Nations for discussion. Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling was there.

[Begin recording] [Schmerling] Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni said that Egypt has a special status in the Arab-Israeli conflict. It enjoys good relations with everyone and can play a key role in resolving any problem that comes up. He added that this was what Egypt was also doing in the deportee affair. Egypt was trying to bridge the gaps. The compromise agreement between Israel and the United States was a step in the right direction.

[Basyuni, in English] We consider this package as a step toward the right direction. So it is a good step toward a right direction. We are trying, because as I told you, all the parties concerned must be satisfied. We can return the deportees gradually and the parties themselves can agree about it. I am trying to use my goodwill so that all the parties concerned can be happy and can be satisfied.

[Schmerling translates above remarks and continues] The ambassador said that a solution should be found before the issue was brought before the United Nations. One should avoid a situation in which the issue is brought before the United Nations again. The idea is not to punish anybody, Muhammad Basyuni said, alluding to the threat of UN sanctions, but to bring about the resumption of the peace negotiations. This is Egypt's strategic goal. When he was asked about the rising power of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the ambassador replied that this was just a minority. The great majority of Palestinians want peace, and this is what counts. Do not listen to this vocal minority, he urged. You will see for yourselves that if progress is made in the peace talks, and the residents of the territories see there is hope, then the situation there will calm down. [end recording]

Finance Minister Meets U.S. Senator on Aid Cuts

TA0802113993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Senator Patrick Leahy did not raise the issue of possible cuts in U.S. aid to Israel at his meeting with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat this morning. This was stated by the minister and the senator. Leahy is chairman of the Senate Foreign Aid Subcommittee, and in Washington he has been proposing cuts in foreign aid across the board. He said Israel was the only country which absorbs immigrants regardless of their age or state of health. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] The Israeli Government is taking the threat of U.S. aid cuts seriously. Yesterday, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said Israel categorically rejects any cuts in U.S. aid. This morning, I asked Finance Minister Avraham Shohat if it is not presumptuous of Israel to speak of U.S. aid in such terms. He said Israel has to make its view known:

[Shohat] We believe that according to the tradition and according to the amount of money that we got before—the $3,000,000,000, including the military aid—it has to be continued. We didn't solve our problem. I don't think that we already solved the problem of the new immigrants, of creating jobs, absorbing these people.

[Katzenell] However, after this morning's meeting Shohat said the senator did not even raise the subject of aid cuts. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Curfews in Gaza After 2 Arabs Killed, 13 Injured

TA0602112893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Two Arabs were killed and 13 wounded by Army gunfire in riots in various places in the Gaza Strip. An Israeli Army spokesman at the Southern Command told our correspondent Gil Litman that the body of a 16-year-old youngster was brought to a hospital in Gaza yesterday. His body was snatched away and buried before the incident was investigated.

A 19-year-old youngster was wounded in riots in the Jabalyah refugee camp this morning, and later died of his wounds.

[Quoting a REUTER correspondent in the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 6 February says that the riots in Jabalyah "broke out when locals called on the families of the terrorists killed yesterday."

[The report goes on to say that "in the wake of yesterday's riots in the Gaza Strip, this morning thee Army clamped curfews on the Jabalyah, al-Nusayrat, and al-Burayj refugee camps."]

Egypt Wants Separate Arms Control Talks

TA0502115193 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Feb 93 p A1

[Report by defense correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] Egypt has approached Israel with a proposal to hold arms control talks outside the framework of the multilateral negotiations. The Egyptians wish to discuss the details of the Israeli Government's arms control initiative, which was presented by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres last month. The Defense and Foreign Ministries are now discussing their reply to the Egyptian proposal.

The Israeli initiative, which was drafted in preparation for the multilateral talks, comprises a proposal for Middle East demilitarization of surface-to-surface missiles and of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons, and a willingness to discuss all the components of military power and the regional arms race after stable peace arrangements are achieved. The guiding principle of Israel's initiative is reciprocal supervision of the implementation of commitments to curb armament. Also, Israel is ready to introduce reciprocal surprise checks in the event of suspected agreement violations. [passage omitted]

U.S. Troops Conduct Military Exercises in Jan

TA0302155193 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Feb 93 p A1

[Report by security affairs correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Text] Two military exercises were conducted in Israel in January as part of the strategic cooperation with the United States.

A joint exercise was conducted at the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Command and Staff College to examine the preparedness in times of emergency in various areas of strategic cooperation.

Thousands of U.S. Marines conducted a drill in a training area loaned by IDF. The U.S. soldiers arrived in Israel aboard amphibious vessels of the 6th Fleet which docked in Haifa for repairs. They left Israel on 21 January.

Israeli sources emphasized that these routine exercises were planned a long time ago and were not connected to the tension between the United States and Iraq in the Persian Gulf.

The military cooperation between Israel and the United States is anchored in an agreement made in 1983 which has evolved through the years. The agreement provides for exercises, the prepositioning of U.S. equipment in warehouses in Israel, and coordination in times of emergency, such as during the Gulf war.

Highest Muslim Official in West Bank Dies

TA0702060393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] The mufti of Jerusalem, the highest Muslim official in the West Bank, has died. Sa'd-al-Din al-'Alami was head of the Higher Islamic Council for religious affairs for Muslims in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. He was 82. He was appointed by Jordan as the area's senior Islamic clergyman in 1954.

House Debates Banning Embargo on Arab States

Prime Minister Speaks

JN0702204693 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Address by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir at House of Representatives session in Amman on 7 February to discuss "a draft law submitted by 40 deputies on the inadmissibility of Jordan's boycotting or besieging any Arab country"—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Mr. Speaker, esteemed members: Your esteemed house realizes that from the moment this government won the honor of being tasked by the dearly beloved leader of the homeland to shoulder the responsibility and won your esteemed house's confidence, it did not move away for one day from one of the constants which were set by his majesty the king and which we have, together, accepted as a framework for the government and the course that is based on wisdom and keeping away from all that endangers the homeland's safety and the nation's interests.

Brothers, you know that the government has on many occasions emphasized its eagerness to maintain responsible cooperation between the two branches of power, the government and your esteemed house, to entrench a democractic course which we both pledged to protect and safeguard, a course that would never become entrenched if the efforts of all the parties are not mobilized in a selfless manner, and with a sense of responsibility, and a complete eagerness to safeguard the requisites of the homeland's security and stability and to give precedence to the public interest so that it may remain above all considerations, interests, and slogans.

Mr. Speaker, esteemed members, the government has taken care to pursue this formula of cooperation and to secure the causes for its development and enhancement. The government will maintain this eagerness because it believes that responsible democracy represents a course the leader has set and which the people have accepted and because it also believes that the world watches the course of the government and construction in our lofty homeland with appreciation and admiration, particularly those aspects dealing with freedom, dignity, and human rights.

From this premise, we were hoping that the case which called for this comment had not originally taken place and that the abidance by the pan-Arab and national responsibilty would have precluded such a uncalled for motion. With all its sons and factions, the Jordanian family enjoys a high degree of maturity and the nation and the world at large know that Jordan, thanks to the wisdom and loyalty of its Hashemite leadership, has never spared any possible and legitimate effort to champion the causes of its nation, and that its stands and boundless sacrifices are well known to all. Jordan's honorable pan- Arab stand since the emergence of the first signs of the Gulf crisis and its war and throughout all its chapters and storms, and until this moment has been a firm and faithful extension of the pan-Arab phenomenon to which Jordan persistenly abides by in terms of faith, struggle, and defense with all the legitimate means and methods.

In spite of all that this homeland, which deserves sacrifice and protection, has exprienced and continues to experience, it has never accepted bowing its head to any other than God Almighty. It maintained its lofty and honorable stand as the torch bearer of the great Arab revolt, the glorious revolution the Hashemites led and for which they have offered sacrifices until it became a beacon of honor in the nation's history, inspiring every sincere man.

Mr. Speaker, esteemed members, Jordan, as a member of the international community, is bound to the international conventions to which it committed itself, and which became part of its legal commitments. Jordan is a UN member, and is committed to its Charter that constitutes legislation binding on the Jordanian Government now that Jordan is a full-fledged member of the world body on the basis of abidance by its Charter, and in accordance with the Jordanian Constitution. Therefore, the Charter and all agreements emanating from it have received a legislative nature that gives them precedence over the legal legislation applied in Jordan.

Mr. Speaker, esteemed members, you may recall, brothers, that since the very beginning of the imposition of sanctions on Iraq, Jordan worked relentlessly, using all means, to stop the sufferings of the fraternal Iraqi people. Jordan is still doing all it can at all levels to lift the embargo and end the suffering of that Arab country. But if we want to carry out our pan-Arab duty toward a sisterly country, and at the same time stick to our constitutional duty toward our people—since we shouldered the responsibility of running their affairs—then the only thing we can do is to intensify the effort to end Iraq's isolation and embargo. This is what we are working for seriously.

You know that our contacts with the Iraqi leadership have never stopped. Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan visited Jordan recently, and we discussed various pan-Arab and international issues. We will spare no effort to support Iraq and its people with advice and with efforts at the international level that serve their interests. This is what benefits Iraq and does not harm our dear country, Jordan.

Mr. Speaker, esteemed members, I spoke about the constitutional responsibility which the executive authority bears, and which shows the extent of the movement it can embark on when the subject is related to international pledges and commitments by their conventions. I believe that the legislative authority equally shares this constitutional responsibility. I expect that the government will be brought to account if it relinquishes

this responsibility. This is something that I cannot accept for myself or for my government.

Hence, I think that dialogue should continue between the executive and legislative authorities on this subject in a different manner that necessitates intensifying the efforts at the Arab and the international levels in order to launch initiatives that lift injustice inflicted on sisterly Iraq.

May God guide all of us to the right path. Peace be upon you.

Proposal Deemed Unconstitutional

JN0702170693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] The House of Representatives met this afternoon under the chairmanship of Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat and in the presence of His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and other ministers.

The house discussed a number of topics, including a draft law banning the imposition of an embargo on any Arab country or the closure of Jordan's border with that country. During the discussions on this proposal, his excellency the prime minister stressed that Jordan has sapred no effort to serve the causes of its nation. He added that Jordan is committed to the international conventions and said: The proposal contradicts this commitment. The prime minister emphasized Jordan's firm position which sought to lift the siege imposed on Iraq since the beginning of the Gulf crisis. He added: If we want to carry out our pan-Arab duty and adhere to our constitutional duty, then the only thing we should do is intensify the efforts to end Iraq's isolation.

Following a lengthy debate, the House of Representatives decided by a majority that this proposal was unconstitutional.

Iraq's Ramadan Departs for Baghdad 5 Feb

JN0602083293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Feb 93 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yasin Ramadan left Amman for home Friday after an overnight stopover. His Majesty King Husayn received Mr. Ramadan at the Royal Court on Thursday and reviewed with him the latest developments in the region and the international arena and bilateral relations. The audience was attended by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayid Bin-Shakir, Royal Court Chief Khalid al-Karaki, the undersecretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman. Mr. Ramadan, who arrived in Amman from Algiers en route to Baghdad, said his country was still hopeful that the U.S. administration would respond positively to Iraq's recent initiatives. Following his meeting with the King, Mr. Ramadan told reporters that his country was still awaiting an American response and that "it is a mistake to abort any development and say things did not change."

Palestinian Official Calls 'Arafat Visit 'Positive'

JN0502171093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat left Amman this afternoon following a visit to Jordan, during which he held talks with His Majesty King Husayn on ways to enhance the two sides' distinguished bilateral relations. His Majesty King Husayn and president 'Arafat exchanged views on issues of mutual interest, especially the Palestinian deportees and challenges facing the nation.

President 'Arafat was seen off by Dhuqan al-Hindawi, deputy prime minister and minister of education, the Palestinian ambassador in Amman, and several officials.

Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Advisory Committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, said the meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and president 'Arafat was very positive and fruitful, noting that views were identical on all issues.

He added: This confirms the successful Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and its importance, as well as the need to deepen it in the interest of the two peoples.

Al-Husayni, who attended the meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and president 'Arafat, said that the two leaders had identical views on the future of Jordanian-Palestinian relations, adding that Palestinian-Jordanian coordination is continuing and constantly growing, particularly at this stage when Israel is trying to circumvent the resolutions of international legitimacy to legitimize its suppressive practices, manifested by the deportation of Palestinian citizens from their homeland.

The Palestinian president arrived in Cairo today on a visit to Egypt, during which he will hold talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the question of Palestinian deportees.

'Arafat, Ramadan Visits Show New Era in Arab Ties

JN0502124993 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Feb 93 p 1

[Editorial: "A Beginning of Relaxation in Arab Ties]

[Text] It seems that there is a relaxation in Arab ties, whose beginnings are looming on the horizon. It is clear that the Jordan of steadfastness and mobilization is nominated to play a pioneering role in this regard.

His Majesty King Husayn's meeting with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan to discuss the situation in the region, Arab ties, and the issue of Palestinian deportees, constitutes a positive and important step toward clearing the Arab atmosphere, healing the rift in Arab ties, and reactivating joint Arab action to confront challenges to our nation.

The importance of His Majesty King Husayn's meetings with 'Arafat and Taha Yasin Ramadan lies in the fact that they took place before and after the Palestinian president's visit to Iraq, and before and after the senior Iraqi official's visit to the Arab Maghreb states.

It also seems that there is something which encourages and supports this Arab move, especially as there are large official and popular Arab circles which pin great hopes on any sincere, responsible, and serious action to establish bridges among the Arab parties, particularly if this action was carried out by Jordan.

'Arafat has praised King Husayn's role in seeking to settle Arab differences and conflicts among brothers. As long as there is a serious call for holding an Arab summit as soon as possible to turn over a new leaf in Arab relations, then this call should be received with support and a positive response from all the Arab states, taking into consideration that the serious deterioration in the Arab situation and the dangerous challenges to our nation necessitate a unified Arab stand and joint Arab efforts.

Undoubtedly, Amman, which has become the fortress of Arabism under His Majesty King Husayn, will host important Arab meetings along these lines.

Aims of Christopher's Regional Tour Viewed

JN0602110693 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Feb 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Deportees Put Ball in Israeli Court"]

[Text] The deportees' pledge to all return to their homeland without exceptions or to remain where they are in occupied southern Lebanon is a militant stand that reinforces the Palestinian and Arab stand that calls for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 799 and rejecting the Israeli-U.S. deal to return only 100 of the 415 deportees. We believe that this heroic and brave stand by the deportees could predestine the U.S. Secretary of State's upcoming tour of the region to fail.

During his upcoming tour, this U.S. secretary plans to remove every obstacle to resuming the peace negotiations. Circumventing the issue of the deportees will be the first mission in the region for the new U.S. secretary.

If we take into consideration the statements by President Clinton's official spokesman on his administration's commitment to render the peace process a success under all circumstances, then one should expect the United States to pressure the Security Council to bypass Resolution 799 on the issue of Palestinian deportees.

From this premise, the Arab cordon states should soon hold a meeting to adopt a united stand and agree on what to say to the U.S. secretary of state during his tour of the region.

The Arab cordon states still continue to reject splitting off the issue of deportees. They also reject returning part of them and excluding others.

This Arab stand led to postponing the round of multilateral negotiations.

The cordon states can persist on their stand and exert pressure on the UN Security Council to force Israel to comply in implementing Resolution 799 which calls for the immediate return of deportees to their homeland.

Moreover, these states can insist on linking the issue of deportees with the peace process. They can also prevent the peddling of the Israeli-U.S. deal blessed by Egypt.

In any case, the deportees' pledge to all return, without any exceptions, or to remain in al-'Awdah camp [in Marj-al-Zuhur], should reinforce the Arab stand and put the ball in both the Israeli and U.S. courts.

Al-Hirawi Urges Inclusion in Christopher Tour

NC0602185893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Will U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the Middle East include Lebanon? Our radio has learned that Lebanon insists on it. The Lebanese see no reason a visit should not take place, given the improved security situation and the favorable effect the visit could have on the country's bid to restore normalcy.

President Ilyas al-Hirawi, our radio learned, conveyed Lebanon's views in this regard to U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker during their meeting today. President al-Hirawi expressed concern that Christopher's failure to include Beirut in his regional tour could be seen as a prior statement of intent, which could harm Lebanon. Omitting Lebanon from the tour, al-Hirawi said, could send a signal to certain local and foreign quarters that Lebanon has not yet restored its sovereignty and independence, a signal that they could use to further their own goals.

The president told the U.S. ambassador that the situation now is better than it was during the visit by former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Referring to UN Security Council Resolution 799, the president told the ambassador that Christopher's failure to visit Lebanon would have a negative effect on the deportees issue and constitute a clear bias toward Israel.

The U.S. reaction to the Lebanese position is still unknown. It is worth noting that two days ago Ambassador Crocker promised Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz that he would get an answer in the next few days.

Buwayz Comments

NC0702100393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] In a statement to our radio, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz hoped U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher would visit Lebanon as part of his tour of the region. He said the date of the tour and the countries to be visited are not yet clear. He explained that he recently received a message from Christopher in which he said he would visit the region during the last part of February.

Buwayz expects the United States to continue to play the role of catalyst and fair mediator in the peace process. What Washington needs to do, very clearly, is to reaffirm its commitments and reassure the parties to the peace negotiations, Buwayz said. He described the current stage as very delicate and said his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad reflected this delicacy.

Buwayz said the next few months will witness a turning point: Either a deeper engagement in the peace plan or difficulties at the peace conference. Either development, he added, would affect Lebanon's internal situation.

Further on Palestinian Deportees' Activities

Refuse To Receive List

NC0502173593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Palestinian deportees today rejected Israel's recent offer. They swore before journalists that they would only accept a full return. They also refused to meet with an Israeli envoy who wanted to hand them a list of those to be allowed back.

An Israeli force today removed the earth barricade separating the Zummarayya position from the deportees' camp in Marj al-Zuhur. The force asked a civilian from Hasbayya to drive to the camp and hand the list to the deportees. They deportees refused to receive it and asked the driver to go back to where he came from.

Spokesman Stresses Solidarity

NC0702081893 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees, has said that the deportees' rejection of returning some of them will foil the Israeli-U.S. proposal. He said the Americans and Israelis wagered on the deportees' failure to demonstrate solidarity, hoping that Resolution 799 will not be implemented and that the Security Council will not take punitive measures against Israel. Al-Rantisi said Clinton and Rabin once again will yield to international pressure to implement the Security Council resolution.

On Warren Christopher's visit to the region, al-Rantisi said it will not be productive if Israel fails to return all the deportees to their homes. He said the dignity of Arabs does not allow them to disregard the cause of the deportees, who will not accept any alternative to Resolution 799.

On Rabin's statement that the peace negotiations had run into trouble before the deportations, al-Rantisi said Rabin lives in another world. He added that the entire world realizes the close link between the deportees and the postponement of the talks. He described Israel's killing of six Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip as a manifestation of the organized terrorism practiced by the occupation forces against the Palestinian people.

Sit-In Held

NC0702112493 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] The Palestinian deportees at 0900 today began observing a sit-in inside their tents which will continue until 1400. The decision to stage the sit-in was announced at a news conference held by Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees.

Dr. al-Rantisi said that the deportees are holding the sit-in to protest the stand of the United Nations, the UN Security Council, and the international community,

which are maintaining silence over the Nazi massacres against the sons of the Palestinian people in Palestine. The deportees also want to protest the UN Security Council's failure to implement Resolution 797, which calls for our immediate return and the respect of international law, al-Rantisi added.

Asked about the possibility of Israel sending buses to the Zummarayya crossing point to transfer 100 of the deportees to the occupied territories, al-Rantisi said: If they had any self-respect, they would not send buses.

Replying to another question about U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region, al-Rantisi said: Christopher knows what we want and that the Arab countries are supporting our stand, and they will tell him to return the deportees.

Asked about the stand of [PLO officials] Nabil Sha'th and Bassam Abu-Sharif, Dr. al-Rantisi said: The decision is ours, not theirs. We will still reject the decision on our partial return even if the entire world supports this decision. He added that the Palestinian women also have rejected the U.S.-Israeli deal.

Sick Deportees Return

NC0702174293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Security sources in south Lebanon say that Israeli soldiers today transported five sick deportees from a hospital in south Lebanon to a prison in northern occupied Palestine. [passage omitted]

According to the same sources, the five deportees who were returned are Amjad Zamil, 23; Wa'il Hindiyah, 32; Husayn Quwayq, 37; Zuhdi al-Tabliyah, 63; and Zuhayr Libbadah, 41.

Al-Hirawi Denies Division Over Deportee Issue

NC0702131693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi said he is surprised to have read in newspapers that his return to B'abda Palace indicates displeasure or divisions. During an inspection tour of the palace today, al-Hirawi asked: Is it too much for the state to renovate its symbol, B'abda Palace? We will see if the state's treasury can afford building a number of palaces to receive guests in the future, he said.

Al-Hirawi pointed out that the president of the Republic does not vote at the Council of Ministers, but he expresses opinions, listens, and serves as an arbiter among all groups and between the Council of Ministers and the Chamber of Deputies. My visit to the Chamber, al-Hirawi added, was based on this authority. He said many people, even politicians, have forgotten that the president enjoys the power to address messages to the Chamber, adding that he used this right the last time he visited the Chamber.

On the economic situation, the president urged giving the government sufficient time after 17 years of war and only three years of peace. He also called for moderating criticism and giving the government a chance. He admitted, however, that criticism helps in making reforms. Referring to some economic rumors, al-Hirawi said Lebanon's economy is free and that a Lebanese has the right to buy dollars and exchange them whenever he likes. He said the mission of the Central Bank is to prevent an economic disaster, stressing that the needed resources are available.

President al-Hirawi underscored Lebanon's position on the Palestinian deportees, noting that for the first time since 1969, the Lebanese are united in their position that the issue concerns Israel. We do not want the implementation of Resolution 799 to be an alternative to the implementation of Resolution 425, al-Hirawi said.

Al-Hariri: Syrian Pullout Will Create Security Vacuum

NC0702064193 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has told LE MONDE that government jobs, except for senior posts, are no longer distributed on a sectarian basis. Only a general balance among the sects will be taken into consideration, he said. He noted the need for balanced economic development to complete the abolishment of sectarianism, saying that the Lebanese will then decide the future of political sectarianism in their country.

Asked whether the partial Syrian withdrawal mentioned in the al-Ta'if accord has remained mere ink on paper, al-Hariri said: This is true. But the vacuum the Syrian redeployment will create will cause security problems, especially in the regions where the displaced are being returned. He explained that the Army and the security forces, although reunified, still lack the necessary equipment.

On the deportees, the prime minister said the bilateral negotiations will become more difficult if the problem is not solved.

Minister Says Syrian Troops Needed for Protection

NC0602172693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Minister of State 'Abdallah al-Amin has stated that part of the Syrian presence in Lebanon is linked to the regional situation, because there are areas in Lebanon that need Syrian forces for protection from the Israeli presence. He declined to set the time or date for redeployment of the Syrian forces. He noted that there is a clause in the al-Ta'if Accord stating that redeployment of the Syrian forces will take place in accordance with an agreement between the Lebanese and Syrian Governments. He said that any step taken by the Lebanese Army is a step toward speeding up Syrian redeployment.

Al-Asad Receives Clinton Message on Cooperation

JN0502184693 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a message from U.S. President Bill Clinton, thanking him for his congratulations on assuming office and welcoming continued cooperation on the Middle East peace process.

President Clinton described as historic President al-Asad's decision to take part in the process to establish a just, permanent, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. He reiterated the U.S. commitment to help all parties make the process succeed.

President Clinton told President al-Asad about his plan to dispatch Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region shortly to discuss with him and other leaders ways of developing the peace process.

Al-Shar' on Christopher Visit, Talks With Iran

JN0702192993 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has underlined the need for the Palestinian deportees to be repatriated in order to get on with the Middle East peace process. In a press statement today, al- Shar' said that he will raise the deportees issue with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher when he comes to Damascus, as well as the removal of obstacles in the path of the peace process. He will hold a meeting with his counterparts from Turkey and Iran Hikmet Cetin and 'Ali Akbar Velayati, to follow up on talks held previously in Ankara to consider the situation in Iraq. I am confident, al-Shar' added, that we will arrive at the same conclusions and reiterate the importance of compliance with UN Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis. At the same time, we will emphasize the three countries' concern for the integrity of the Iraqi people and territory, declared al-Shar'.

Media Comment on Christopher Visit, Deportees

Tour 'Appreciated' Move

JN0602092093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 6 Feb 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN discusses U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of a number of the region's states, which he will start on 17 February. The paper stresses that this is an important and appreciated move, and that this U.S. move could have been more effective and positive had it been accompanied by a determination on the part of Washington to enable the Palestinian expellees to return home, to implement UN Security Council Resolution 799, and to entrench the authority of international law in the face of the law of the jungle exercised by the Yitzhaq Rabin government.

TISHRIN indicates that the Israeli deportation decision was aimed against the Middle East peace talks. It says that Washington's acceptance of reaching a compromise with Israel concerning the deportation issue is extremely serious since this shows that Washington has been dragged into advocating the Israeli stand, not vice versa. It is known that the deportations were aimed against the peace process, and that the Rabin government never made the previous Washington talks easy; instead, it deliberately placed obstacles before those negotiations.

TISHRIN says that the success of U.S. Secretary Warren Christopher's upcoming tour depends on the extent of Washington's commitment and determination to implement UN Security Council resolutions and to affirm the bases of the Madrid conference. The Arabs want peace—a peace that consolidates the international law and the UN resolutions, whose contents should be translated into tangible measures on the ground. This means full restoration of the occupied Arab territories and guaranteeing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: To the extent they are committed to this orientation, all Arab parties will respond to the Americans. But to be dragged into advocating Israeli policies that defy justice, law, and legitimacy, will only lead to the collapse of the peace process.

Pressure on Israel Urged

JN0602152193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Gentlemen: Undoubtedly, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who President Bill Clinton decided to dispatch to the region as an expression of his determination to advance peace efforts in the region, will be welcomed in Damascus.

Syria placed the attainment of a just peace at the core of its objectives, and provided all facilities to former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Furthermore, it opened for him all doors, which then Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir deliberately closed with the aim of aborting the U.S. initiative and maintaining the tense and explosive situation in the Middle East.

Former President George Bush repeatedly hailed the Syrian position as being responsive to the cause of peace, and criticized the Israeli Government for the obstacles it was creating, foremost among which was formidable obstacle of settlements, which he described as contrary to peace.

During the Washington talks, and to break the vicious cycle, Syria presented constructive and balanced proposals on ways of attaining peace and the mechanism of its realization. These proposals were lauded by both Republicans and Democrats in the United States.

Syria has supported and will continue to support any effort made in the interest of just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, a peace based on Security Council resolutions and which eventually leads to the full implementation of these resolutions, according to which every party assumes its full rights.

The Arabs have rights. Their land has been under occupation since 1967, and the Palestinian people are hostage to the Israeli war of repression. It is high time for the international community to implement its resolutions by relieving the Palestinians of injustice and repression, and returning to the Arabs their land, which was occupied by force. We are saying this because the influential countries in the Security Council believe in the soundness of Arab rights and Israeli injustice, but they never go as far as threatening Israel with implementing Security Council resolutions by force if necessary. Furthermore, these countries oppose even resorting to economic or political sanctions to force Israel to implement these resolutions. They expect Israel to give up on its own the policy of repression and expansion it is practicing. Such a thing has never happened in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict. [passage omitted]

It is impossible to draw Israel to peace without intensive international pressure, without U.S. pressure in particular, without a U.S. commitment to render the peace process successful, and without using U.S. political, economic, and military weight toward this objective. Israel receives from the United States in particular, and from the West in general, all forms of assistance. It is the right and duty of the United States, and it is the right and duty of the West to ask Israel to heed international law, to respect human rights and the Geneva conventions, and to implement UN resolutions so the aspired for just and comprehensive peace can be achieved. Otherwise, it will be deprived of assistance and will be forced to heed international legitimacy and its deterrent measures.

Mission 'Extremely Difficult'

JN0702082993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Feb 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH deals with the U.S. secretary of state's planned tour of the region. The paper says: Undoubtedly, Christopher's mission will be extremely difficult because his tour comes at a time when Israel continues to create new crises for and place new obstacles before the peace process.

AL-BA'TH refers to the question of Palestinian deportees, which should have been resolved yet remains unsolved due to the continued Israeli refusal to implement UN Resolution 799 stipulating that the deportees be allowed to return to their homeland and families. Without doubt, Israel's failure to implement this resolution creates a new obstacle to the resumption of the peace talks.

The paper says that the resumption of the peace process under the current situation would render these talks, if they were held, tense and distant from the basic articles that are supposed to be discussed. This is because since it began the peace talks, Israel has been engaged in a policy of procrastination and maneuvering.

Concluding its comment, AL-BA'TH says: We believe that U.S. Secretary Christopher will be facing an extremely difficult mission. The Arabs have given all they can for the sake of a just settlement, while Israel has stood against any progress toward a solution. It has instead been fabricating repeated crises to avert the requirements of peace.

U.S.-Israeli 'Deal' Condemned

JN0702154793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Just as the U.S.-Israeli deal to circumvent the UN Security Council Resolution on the issue Palestinian deportees has angered these deportees and reinforced the solidity of their stand toward Rabin's governement, it also aroused all the Arab parties' concern over the stand of the U.S. Administration.

Perhaps Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin did not take into account that this well-struck deal will face such strong opposition by the deportees themselves, who announced their resistance to any attempt to bury the issue. They also emphasized that this issue can only be solved by Resolution 799.

It never occured to Rabin that all U.S.-supported pressures to impose a deal on the international community may prove useless in the face of a united stand by the deportees, who are strongly opposed to what they consider a blatant attempt at bribery. They pledged to only return as a group based on their legitimate rights and on the resolutions and charters of international legitimacy.

Moreover, it became clear to Rabin that this deal may not be the means he has been waiting for to get out of the impasse in which he has placed himself. It may be understood why Rabin continues to adhere to this deal as a way out for him after all his previous steps failed. However, it cannot be understood why Washington continues to adopt this deal. The Arab parties believe that this deal has implications beyond a mere attempt to find a compromise solution to the issue of deportees and prevent the imposition of UN Security Council sanctions on Israel.

The Arabs are deeply concerned about the implications of this deal because Washington did not hesitate to strike a deal with Israel, which actually is a clear abrogation of a frank UN Security Council resolution, thus placing this deal above international law.

The Arabs are concerned about whether this U.S.-Israeli deal on the issue of deportees may constitute a precedent

or a yardstick with which to deal with other Security Council resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict. This concern is legitimate, especially as the entire peace process, on which the Arabs and the world pin hopes to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, is based on UN Security Council resolutions.

No doubt, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will face such questions when he visits the Arab countries during his upcoming tour of the region. He has to give convincing answers if he really wants his visit to give momentum to the peace process and to render this process a success.

In any case, as we await Christopher's answers, it remains certain that the U.S.-Israeli deal did not solve the issue of the deportees. Indeed, it further complicated it. Moreover, this deal is far from serving and giving momentum to the peace process. Indeed, it was totally counter productive.

Al-Shar' Confers With U.S. Senate Delegation

JN0802143893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received a delegation from the U.S. Senate, headed by Senator James Jeffords, with delegation members Senator Hank Brown and Senator Arlen Specter.

The meeting was attended by the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Talks at the meeting dealt with the international situation, developments in the region, the peace process, and the deportees issue. Discussions also dealt with bilateral relations.

Al-Asad Phones Mubarak To Discuss Area Issues

JN0702193393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad telephoned Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this evening. The two sides discussed some regional issues.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives in Damascus

JN0602185193 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1755 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Damascus, 6 Feb (SANA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Damascus this evening on a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

He was received upon arrival at Damascus international airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', directors of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Homeland and Protocol Departments, Kuwaiti Ambassador in Damascus Ibrahim al-Musa, and embassy staff.

In a statement to a SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY correspondent, Shaykh Sabah said: I am honored to carry a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from his brother His Highness Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah dealing with fraternal bilateral relations, the situation along the Iraq-Iran border [as received], and the recent Iraqi violations.

He then answered a number of questions posed by journalists and stressed that the Damascus Declaration is still valid and will remain so. He said: We will discuss this subject with our brothers in Syria, just as we discussed it in Egypt. He added: The Damascus Declaration has economic and military dimensions, and these two dimensions still stand. As for the military dimension, it is supposed to be discussed bilaterally between states, and we will be discussing these two dimensions.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister stressed that all brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] believe in this declaration, which was signed by all of them, and said a meeting of finance ministers from Damascus Declaration states will be held this month, and the foreign ministers of these states will hold another meeting next month, but have yet to agree on a date.

He pointed out: All GCC states have the same faith in the Damascus Declaration as we do.

Shaykh Sabah said: At the end of every GCC meeting, a statement is issued stressing that good relations should be maintained with Iran on the basis of noninterference and mutual respect. We all seek to establish these relations with neighboring Iran within this framework.

Regarding Resolution 799 dealing with the repatriation of the Palestinian deportees, he said: We are the side which sympathizes most with our Palestinian brothers, and we participated in the Arab League meeting on this subject. We have been displaced from our country and we were refugees, therefore, we feel what they feel, and we support this issue. Our position on this subject will be the same as any other Arab country.

On coordination between Kuwait and the Iraqi opposition, the Kuwaiti foreign minister said: Continuous coordination will be maintained with any nationalist Iraqi opposition that believes in Iraq's unity.

Meets al-Shar'

JN0702134693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by the head of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Homeland Department and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus.

Talks during the meeting dealt with the developments in the Gulf region and the Iraqi encroachments on Kuwait. The two sides expressed their dissatisfaction with these

encroachments and demanded the return of the prisoners detained by Iraq. At the same time, the two sides affirmed their concern for the unity of the Iraqi land and people. Views were exchanged on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the obstacles created by Israel during the phases of the peace process. In this regard, the two sides stressed the need to implement the Security Council resolutions on the basis of which the peace process was launched. They also demanded the return of all Palestinian deportees.

Discussions also dealt with the Damascus Declaration. The Kuwaiti foreign minister stressed the importance of this declaration and the need to activate it as it is the basic pillar of joint Arab cooperation. Talks also touched on relations between the two fraternal countries, Syria and Kuwait, and ways to bolster them in all fields.

Confers With Vice President

JN0702155493 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1525 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Damasacus, 7 Feb (SANA)—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the delegation accompanying him at 1100 today. The meeting was attended by Ibrahim al-Musa, Kuwait's ambassador in Damascus.

Discussion dealt with the current Arab situation and relations between the two fraternal countries.

Received by al-Asad

JN0702173693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1245 today Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Kuwaiti Ambassador in Damascus Ibrahim al-Musa.

Shaykh Sabah delivered a written message to the president from His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of the State of Kuwait, and the president asked him to convey a message in reply.

Talks at the meeting dealt with developments in the region and the situation in the Gulf.

Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Arrives for Talks

Meets With al-Asad

JN0702212593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Excerpt] At 2100 today, His Excelllency President Hafiz al- Asad received His Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard of Saudi Arabia. They discussed Arab developments and the Middle East peace process. Prince 'Abdallah arrived in Damascus at 1930 today. [passage omitted]

Talks With Other Officials

LD0802155793 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] His royal highness the crown prince, Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, this morning received at his place of residence at Tishrin Palace in Damascus, Dr. Rif'at al-Asad, vice president of the Syrian Arab Republic.

His royal highness also received at his place of residence in Damascus Dr. Engineer Major Basil Hafiz al-Asad, son of his excellency the president of the Syrian Arab Republic.

During these two meetings, friendly conversations were exchanged.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz also received this afternoon the vice president of the Syrian Arab Republic, Mr. 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

Concludes Visit, Departs

JN0802125993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Excerpt] His Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al- 'Aziz, first deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard of Saudi Arabia, left Damascus at 1315 today after a two-day visit to Syria. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam accompanied Prince 'Abdallah from the Tishrin Palace to Damascus international airport. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Dostam Appointed Deputy Defense Minister

BK0602160093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1546 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Quetta, Pakistan, Feb 6 (AFP)—Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has appointed powerful Uzbek General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam as deputy defence minister, Afghan Foreign Minister Najibollah Lafrai said here Saturday. [passage omitted]

"We consider him as part of the Defence Ministry," Lafrai said at a press conference in which he condemned recent attacks by the Hezb-e Eslami faction, led by dissident leader Golboddin Hekmatyar, on the Afghan capital Kabul.

The appointment is the first time Dostam, who played an important role in the ousting of the communist Najibollah government last April, has joined the mojahedin government.

Lafrai said the government was taking all necessary measures to safeguard the people of Kabul from ongoing rocket attacks.

Blaming Hekmatyar for the attacks, the Afghan foreign minister said the government would try to solve the problem peacefully.

He said any ceasefire must be permanent and "there must be guarantees that the attacks would not be repeated in the future."

Defence Ministry forces are trying to push Hezb forces out of rocket range of Kabul. Lafrai added the artillery around Kabul must be taken from Hezb troops.

The foreign minister also said Hezb's involvement could not be ruled out in the killings of three U.N. workers and a Dutch engineer by unknown gunmen near Jalalabad on Monday.

Indian Embassy Evacuated; Shooting Continues

BK0602145693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1428 GMT 6 Feb 93

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, Feb 6 (AFP)—Indian Ambassador Arif Qamarain and the entire Indian Embassy staff, a total of six diplomats and 11 others, evacuated Kabul on Saturday afternoon on a regular Afghan Airlines flight to New Delhi.

Qamarain, described as a very senior career diplomat, was posted to Kabul late December from Sydney and had been in the capital for only 40 days before he was ordered to shut down the Indian mission.

"This is only a temporary closure. We will return to Kabul when the situation is calmer," said Qamarain at Kabul International Airport.

The Indian Embassy, like most of the other foreign missions in Kabul, has taken direct hits by long range rockets fired by rebel faction mojahedin forces battling the Afghan Defence Ministry.

A junior Indian staffer was killed on Tuesday by one such rocket.

The remaining eight foreign missions in Kabul all operate with reduced staff and most have contingency plans for evacuation.

One Indonesian Embassy official also left Kabul by air Saturday, but some Chinese staff that had been away on leave were seen arriving from India.

For the 19th day fighting continued in and around Kabul between Defence Ministry forces and rebel factions, who have yet to agree on compromised terms for a ceasefire.

Two rebel factions, the Pashtun Hezb-e Eslami and the Shiite Hazara Hezb-e Wahdat, who are co-ordinating their military activities against the government, are demanding the resignation of President Borhanoddin Rabbani who assumed leadership in a controversial national election in December.

Wahdat leader Ayatollah 'Abdol Ali Mazari said he had met with a delegation from the Defence Ministry on Friday to discuss a ceasefire, but without success.

"First we think that Rabbani must resign and hand over power to the Leadership Council (the now-defunct assembly of nine mojahedin leaders), and second there should be an exchange of prisoners—after this the ground will be paved for a ceasefire," Mazari said.

General Khodaidad, the Wahdat chief of army staff, claimed his forces had captured part of a strategic peak in central Kabul on Friday night.

Artillery fire was seen exploding at the peak on Saturday morning, but it was clear not which side was being punished.

From a bridge over the Kabul river, on which was stencilled the sign "down with American imperialism," government troops used tanks and truck-mounted canon to fire on Wahdat positions in the Russian Embassy.

About 15 to 20 rockets and artillery shells were fired into Kabul in the general direction of the presidential palace and Defence Ministry around noon, and a handful more crashed into the Wazir Akbar Khan diplomatic enclave in the afternoon.

Defence Ministry forces report unconfirmed plans to station a buffer force from the ex-communist Uzbek militia of General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam between their positions and the Wahdat guerrillas.

Dostam's troops have so far stayed neutral in this round of clashes, but they are ideological allies of Wahdat seeking the common goal of guarantees of their national rights.

Further Reportage on Fighting in Kabul

Four Killed in Rocket Attack

LD0602124493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 0230 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Golboddin's rebellious group have fired 34 Sakr-type rockets at Kabul city. A responsible security forces source has told BAKHTAR that last night the rebellious enemy group again fired [word indistinct] rockets, killing four innocent citizens and injuring another 12. These rockets landed on the second, third, fourth, 10th, and 11th wards of Kabul, causing, in addition to the loss of life, extensive material damage. [passage indistinct]

Government Positions Said Seized

LD0602145393 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] A military source of the Hezb-e Eslami has told a correspondent of the Radio Message of Freedom military section that the courageous Hezb-e Eslami mojahedin yesterday seized two strong positions of the Supervisory Council forces in the Dehsabz district of Kabul and inflicted loss of life and material on the coalition forces. The report says that during this operation the mojahedin took as booty two operational tanks, one [word indistinct], and a large amount of ammunition. They also captured 16 men.

Efforts are now under way to capture other headquarters and centers of the Supervisory Council forces and their coalition collaborators in this area.

Government, Dostam Forces Clash

LD0602154093 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] The city correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom reports that bloody fighting broke out this morning between Dostam's forces and Supervisory Council men in the old (?city) and Qala-e Zaman Khan areas. Several men on both sides were either killed or injured. The report adds that the fighting began at around 0530 and continued for (?two) hours [passage indistinct]. The main cause of the fighting is not yet clear.

Cease-Fire Prospects Bleak

LD0602115893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Kabul has been the scene of exchanges of heavy weapons fire between the forces of the Supervisory Council and Hezb-e Eslami since noon today. According to a report from our Kabul correspondent Gudarzi, the situation in Kabul is tense. The noise of exploding shells and sporadic machine-gun fire can be heard and people are continuing to flee the city.

The areas around the Presidential Palace, the Defense Ministry, and the diplomatic quarter of (Wazirak-barkhan) were hit by dozens of rockets.

A number of Kabul residents spoke to our reporter, expressing their hatred for the continuing war and calling for the establishment of a cease-fire.

Meanwhile, Asef Mohseni, secretary and spokesman of the Leadership Council, today expressed his pessimism over the establishment of a cease-fire. Speaking of his meetings with President Borhanoddin Rabbani; Golboddin Hekmatyar, the Hezb-e Eslami leader; and Abdol Ali Mazari, the secretary general of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, Mohseni said: Their differences are deep. No agreement has been reached.

At the same time, Rabbani says that he will continue military operations, cleansing the suburbs of Kabul and destroying rocket launching sites. Moreover, Hekmatyar has said that he will accept a cease-fire only within the framework of a general agreement on solving the problems of Afghanistan which stipulates the removal of the present government and general elections within six months.

Northern Forces To Act as Buffer

LD0602183593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Excerpt] To stop the fighting between the Islamic Unity Party [Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami] and forces affiliated to the Supervisory Council [Shura-ye Nezar] in the Bagh Bala mountain pass, west of Afshar, in Kabul, a division from the forces of the National Islamic Movement of Northern Afghanistan is to be deployed in the area separating the two sides. This decision follows a meeting yesterday between General Fawzi, the representative of the National Islamic Movement in Kabul, and Mazari, the secretary general of the Islamic Unity Party. [passage omitted]

Sporadic Clashes 7 Feb

LD0702115093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] The Afghan capital, Kabul, which had been reported calm until this morning, has been witnessing sporadic exchanges of fire between the forces of the Supervisory Council and the opposing factions since noon today. According to our correspondent in Kabul, sources of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami have said that, last night, the party's forces repulsed an attack by the Supervisory Council in the Jangalak region and the southwestern area of Kabul; the attack had been supported by heavy artillery.

Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami positions near the former Soviet Embassy also came under attack by Supervisory

Council forces last night. Hezb-e Wahdat news sources described the attack as severe, and said that the attackers were forced to withdraw, leaving behind around 30 persons killed or injured. Meanwhile, according to Kabul radio, Kabul was hit by over 100 rockets yesterday, leaving 12 persons killed and 48 injured.

Kabul Relatively Quiet

LD0702180793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Despite the fact that a number of missiles hit various areas of the city, today the center of Kabul city was relatively quiet. A BIA correspondent reports from Kabul city that after several days of missile attacks, fired from the south of the city by Golboddin's forces, the citizens took advantages of today's relatively quiet situation to shop for goods and food.

A source of the Defense Ministry reported to BIA that sporadic fighting continued to the south and southeast of the city. The forces of the Islamic State, who have started mopping-up operations to eliminate the enemy missile positions, have gained notable successes and intend to halt the possibility of further missile attacks on the city. The same source confirmed that today a number of missiles hit various areas of the city and caused loss of life and damage.

'Fierce Attacks' 8 Feb

LD0802114693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] According to news received from Kabul, since this morning the opponent forces have been engaged in waging fierce attacks against each other's positions in Kabul, using heavy weaponry. Various parts of the city have been hit by mortar shells and bullets fired from cannons and tanks. According to our correspondent Gudarzi's report from Kabul, western Kabul, which is under the control of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, is being subjected to heavy artillery fire by the Supervisory Council [Shura-ye Nezar].

Also, the central parts of the city where the presidential palace, the Defense Ministry, and the foreign embassies are situated, and Kheyrkhaneh quarter, where the the Supervisory Council forces are based, are being fired at by the forces of Golboddin Hekmatyar and Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami.

On the basis of the report, the only noise audible in Kabul city is that of gun fire and explosions.

Hekmatyar on Conditions for Beginning Peace Talks

LD0702181393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Golboddin Hekmatyar, the leader of the Hezb-e Eslami, has said the release of prisoners being held by the various sides is a precondition for starting peace talks with the government. Jebraili, the mediator between the Afghan Government and Hekmatyar, has announced this, adding that the resignation of [President Borhannodin] Rabbani, the formation of a mojahedin army, and the examination of the current government's financial difficulties are among Hekmatyar's conditions for the attainment of a final agreement.

Jebraili said he had also been in contact with the officials of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, and they believe the peace talks should be trilateral; that is, among the government, the Hezb-e Eslami, and the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami. The National Islamic Movement of the North may also possibly be involved, making them four-sided talks.

Jebraili stressed that the parties engaged in the current fighting in Kabul are relatively equal in strength. He added that none of the sides can achieve decisive military victory and the continuation of the fighting will yield no result other than death and destruction.

Clandestine: Rabbani Reportedly Sought To Resign

LD0602193993 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] At a secret meeting [President] Rabbani showed his willingness to resign but [Islamic Union of Afghanistan leader] Sayyaf and [Defense Minister] Mas'ud prevented him from doing this with threats. The city correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom reports from Kabul that the leaders and collaborators of the coalition administration held a meeting a few days ago to assess the situation. At this meeting Rabbani, in view of the situation, expressed his inability to run the administration and said that he intended to resign from the post of the presidency. The report adds that Sayyaf and Mas'ud who took part in this meeting, threatened Rabbani and forcefully said to him that he cannot do this without their consent. He was thus forced to continue his job. The report adds that serious differences have broken out between the leaders of the coalition administration due to repeated defeats and they do not trust one another.

Arab Suspects in Murder of UN Aid Workers Released

BK0602133293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1322 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Feb 6 (AFP)—More than a dozen Arabs detained for suspected involvement in the murders of some U.N. aid workers in Afghanistan have been released in Jalalabad, Afghan sources said Saturday.

They were taken into custody by the governing Afghan commanders council in the eastern Afghan province of Ningarhar, following an ambush on two U.N. vehicles near Jalalabad on Monday.

The sources said the suspects were released after two days of interrogation cleared them of suspicion.

Five of the freed Arabs meanwhile had arrived in the northwestern Pakistan city of Peshawar, the sources said. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

Rajshahi University Closed After 'Incident'

BK0602150693 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Rajshahi University has been ordered closed for an indefinite period and the combined (?grade) master's final and subsidiary examinations have been postponed. Resident students have been directed to leave the students' hall by 1000 tomorrow. The decision was made by university authorities following an untoward incident at the university campus today. Our Rajshahi correspondent reports that steps have been taken to maintain peace and order in the university campus and the situation is now under control.

Deaths From Students Groups' Clash

BK0602162493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1616 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 6 (AFP)—At least three students were killed and some 700 injured in a gun battle Saturday between two rival student groups at a western Bangladesh university, the UNITED NEWS OF BANGLADESH (UNB) news agency reported.

Unconfirmed reports however said the day-long fighting at Rajshahi University left seven dead and hundreds wounded.

UNB said the fighting between the Islamic Chatra Shibir (ICS) and the rival Jatiyatabadi Chatra Dal (JCD) was preceded by other campus clashes and was sparked Saturday when both groups called rallies at the same venue and time.

ICS is the student-wing of the fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami party, while JCD is backed by the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

The gun battle left two students dead on the spot and another died later in hospital, UNB quoted campus and local hospital officials as saying.

Government officials in Rajshahi, where the university is located, were unavailable for comment.

Opposition Stages Strike

BK0602094293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] In Dhaka, normal life was disturbed today due to the six-hour hartal [strike] called by the main opposition Awami League from 0600 this morning. Shops and business establishments remained closed. The hartal passed off peacefully barring a few sporadic incidents. The hartal was called to protest against what the Awami League described as the manipulation of the results of the Mirpur parliamentary by-election.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 0907 GMT on 6 February in a similar report adds: "Bangladeshi police baton charged a group of opposition activists during a general strike here Saturday, called to protest this week's alleged manipulation of a parliamentary by-election result, witnesses said.

["Mohammad Nasim, a leader of the opposition Awami League which called for the dawn-to-noon stoppage in Dhaka, was among some 15 activists who received minor injuries during the brief clash near the party's downtown office, they said.

["Official sources said police had to resort to batons to break up a group of stone-throwing activists. Two injured police had to be taken to hospital, the sources said."]

India

Security Forces on Alert on Kashmir Border

BK0702104693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1034 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 7 (AFP)—Indian security forces have been put on alert along the line of control dividing Pakistan and Indian-controlled Kashmir after two soldiers died in an ambush by Moslem guerrillas, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Sunday.

A "general alert" was sounded on the 790-kilometer (493-mile) line of control after the rebel attack in Poonch district Saturday, the news agency said.

The two soldiers were killed when Moslem militants fighting to secede Kashmir from India fired rockets at an army camp in Balnoi village. The Indians hit back, killing one guerrilla and capturing another.

Security forces have launched a massive operation to capture the other guerrillas who escaped, officials in Poonch said.

It was the second rocket attack by militants on the army in 20 days. Last month, the guerrillas targeted an ammunition depot near the small frontier town of Medhar, but the rockets missed the dump.

India and Pakistan dispute ownership of Kashmir and have twice gone to war over the Moslem-majority province.

and technology, but it will be profitable for us to become self- sufficient, and this is something that we are doing.

Taxes are being collected in a satisfactory way. The share of people's taxes in the running of the country was very small; but, thanks be to God, it has grown and the collection of taxes is in a good position. I urge the people not to refrain from the payment of their taxes. The best thing is for you to make a profit and then pay some of your profits to your country—because taxes are levied on your profits—so your country can engage in the construction of infrastructure for you. The country is engaged in the provision of essential needs so that in the future you will be able to reap its benefits. [crowd chants slogans]

Our military and security forces, which had been greatly damaged during the war and which had been seriously weakened as far as their capabilities were concerned, have bec.. rebuilt during this period; and their training, their discipline, their repairs, and the purchasing of their required items have taken place. Of course, world arrogance is exaggerating and is accusing us of rearming ourselves at a very fast pace in order to become a regional superpower. This is a lie. We are not doing any such thing. The truth is that we are providing the means for our defense—as much as our defense needs.

Our military industries are among the successful and advanced industries that have been constructed during the war. We are not in need of many purchases from abroad. Our weapons are not aggressive weapons. They are for our defense. Thanks be to God, through high morale and hard work and under the command of the esteemed leader of the revolution, today our armed forces have the best preparedness in the entire course of their history, in the entire course of Iranian history, from every point of view and from the viewpoint of their capabilities. [crowd chants slogans]

One of the important political issues that we solved was the no-war, no-peace situation with Iraq. You could see how difficult that situation was for us. But, thanks to God, as the result of wisdom and as the result of the proper management of our foreign policies, we made international organizations admit that Saddam Husayn was the aggressor and Iran had been the victim. Today we are owed the cost of the war and war reparations. This is a source of great diplomatic pride for us. This is the first time that Iran has been engaged in war when Iran has safeguarded its entire territory, has pushed back her enemy, and has been victorious in international tribunals, and today others—and that includes the United Nations—are indebted to her. [crowd chants slogans]

We can be proud of all the country's economic indicators. A budget that had a 50 percent—more than 50 percent—deficit had no deficit this year when it was sent to the Majles. You will never see, or hardly ever see, another country with no budget deficit. Earlier on, when the debate was conducted on an uninformed level, newspapers and so on were saying that the budget has an invisible deficit because public companies and the private sector must obtain credit from banks; however, later on, the Majles itself reached a point in its discussion where it decided to add it. [sentence as heard]

It is inevitable in any economy that banks must have money and that they must use it for development projects and economic activities and make profit in that way. This kind of thing has nothing to do with the budget. It is a normal and healthy process that the people's small savings should be placed in banks and that the banks should use them for useful projects, such as building roads, building ports, building power stations, and so on, and make a profit as well. This is another source of pride in our budget: investment has shown tremendous growth in the country. Production is growing by 10 percent a year—growth in gross production. In other words, 10 percent is added to the country's wealth. For example, if each person had 100 tomans last year, they will have 110 this year—if you take the country as a whole. If it is the reverse, if gross production is low, it means we have become poorer.

The distribution of income is also becoming fairer. During the war and under the shah, the wealth of the higher strata kept growing. Since the start of the five-year plan and reconstruction, the wealth of the higher strata is gradually decreasing and the wealth of the lower strata is increasing. Of course, this is a very technical issue and requires further clarification.

We have already completed three years of the five-year plan; that is, we were one year into the plan before it was approved by the Majles, and we still have one year left. [sentence as heard] We hope that when the second five-year plan is finished, we can say, in the presence of the spirit of the imam [Khomeyni], here in this very same place, in your presence, in the 20th anniversary of our revolution, we can report that all the country's problems have been solved.

President's Second Friday Prayers Sermon 5 Feb

LD0502172893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1228 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Second Friday prayers sermon by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 5 February—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Another issue that I would like to talk about concerns world problems, particularly those in the world of Islam which we find very tragic. No clear point can be seen in the historic catastrophe of Bosnia-Hercegovina. No serious decision has been taken by the United Nations, other regional powers, and the neighbors of that oppressed and suppressed region toward ending that catastrophe.

I do not think that anyone will pioneer a solution to that Islamic and human problem in the Balkan region unless the world of Islam seriously enters the scene. We are

concerned that such crimes and catastrophes might be repeated in other areas in the Balkans, for if the presence of Muslims is weak, then the danger exists of the repetition of such tragedies and an increase in crime.

The situation in Afghanistan is unfortunately very unsatisfactory. Those who bravely fought for 14 years and defeated the superpower of the East and threw out their soldiers from Afghanistan, are now fighting against each other, killing Muslims and destroying their own mud and straw homes with their own missiles. That is a very unfair situation that those patient people are finding themselves in. That situation shows those people's lack of maturity and growth. They are fighting each other for material issues. They succeeded when they were fighting for the hereafter; now that they are killing Muslims for worldly matters, God will surely humiliate them. I hope they wake up and leave their ignorant disputes aside.

Unfortunately Tajikistan is in the same situation and we are unhappy about it and our hands are not long enough to extend in all directions to be able to solve all problems.

This side in the Persian Gulf, we see a positive point these days. During my last sermon a few weeks ago, I complained about the heads of the Persian Gulf countries who had condemned and criticized Iran. Fortunately they dealt with the issue properly and paid attention to what we said. The messages that they send show that they are willing to maintain friendly relations with Islamic Iran and cooperate with it and are unaffected by the mischief and insinuations of foreigners. I hope that their action continues. We also warmly press their hands and hope to be able, with their assistance, to safeguard the security of the Persian Gulf which is also important to the world.

I seek refuge in Allah from accursed Satan. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Say he is God, the one and only. God, the eternal, absolute. He begetteth not, nor is He begotten. And there is none like unto Him. [Koranic verse in Arabic]

Peace and mercy upon you.

Velayati, Turkey's Cetin Urge Greater Cooperation

LD0602215693 Tehran IRNA in English 1727 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Quetta, Feb. 6, IRNA—The foreign ministers of Iran and Turkey today underlined the need for expansion of Tehran-Ankara relations and for constant contacts between the two countries.

Iran's 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Turkey's Hikmet Cetin, who met on the sidelines of an ECO minsterial meeting here, called for promotion of bilateral cooperation in all fields of mutual concern.

They agreed that the 10-member Economic Cooperation Organization was an appropriate framework to upgrade cooperation among its member states.

Velayati, saying that it has been proven to Iran that there are elements constantly trying to mar Tehran-Ankara ties, noted that with vigilance of the two countries such plots would be foiled.

Cetin, in response, said Turkish authorities are keen to promote ties between Tehran and Ankara and are looking forward to an upcoming visit to Turkey of Iranian First Vice President Hasan Habibi.

Turkey's Cetin Says Iran Not Accused of Terrorism

LD0702181993 Tehran IRNA in English 1803 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 7, IRNA—Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said here today that his government did not accuse Iran of involvement in terrorist activities in Turkey. "I only informed my Iranian counterpar Dr. ('Ali Akbar) Velayati of the remarks made by the convicts arrested in this connection," he told IRNA in an interview.

Cetin was referring to the alleged confessions by a group of people arrested in Turkey last week, that Iran had links with terrorist activities in Turkey.

Cetin had a short stop-over here at Mehrabad International Airport on his way back home from Quetta, Pakistan where he attended a ministerial meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). He also met and held talks with Velayati.

Turkish Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin on Thursday [4 February] said police had arrested 19 members of a previously unknown group called 'Islamic Action' on charges of carrying out political murders in Turkey. Sezgin charged that the members of the group had been trained in Iran.

Iran's Foreign Ministry categorically denied the allegations describing them as unfounded.

Cetin said the only information the Ankara government had for the time being was the alleged confessions by members of the group. He said investigations were underway to find out if there were any truth in these remarks.

The Turkish foreign minister said relations with Iran had improved following recent meetings and talks between Turkish officials and Iranian leaders, particularly President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

He said President Hashemi-Rafsanjani had assured Ankara that no anti- Turkish operations were being carried out by Turkish dissidents from Iranian territory. The assurance, he said, had greatly contributed to the expansion of mutual ties.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the separatist guerrillas in Indian-controlled Kashmir. Islamabad denies the accusation, but supports the Moslem campaign, calling it a legitimate struggle for self-determination.

Chiefs of 2 Kashmir Militant Groups Arrested

BK0502145093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] In Kashmir valley, security forces achieved a major success today when they arrested Mohammad Qasim (Fakhtu) and Ishaq Andrabi, chiefs of two militant outfits. This was stated by the director general of police, Mr. B.S. Bedi, in Srinagar. Security forces also foiled attempts of the militants to abduct two civilians in Srinagar City. People in Civil Lines area approached security forces and sought their help to rescue persons who were being abducted by the militants.

Surface-to-Surface Missile Tested 7 Feb

BK0702125393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] India's indigenously developed surface-to-surface medium-range missile, Prithvi [Earth], has been test launched. Official sources said the missile with the range of 250 km was test fired from a mobile launcher at 1350 [0820 GMT] this afternoon from the interim test range in Chandipur, Orissa. The scientific adviser in the Defense Ministry, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, and a number of top scientists were present on the occasion. This was the fourth test firing of the missile from the interim test range and the 10th in the series.

Commentary Hails Launch

BK0802053293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Journalist Udhay Bhaskar commentary]

[Text] The launch of the Prithvi [Earth], India's tactical battlefield missile yesterday, is neither the first nor the last such launch. This is the 10th launch of the 250-km surface-to-surface missile. The first launch was carried out five years ago, almost to the day. It must be noted that the Prithvi and its launch are part of the larger integrated missile development program undertaken by the Defense Research and Development Organization—DRDO. To that extent, the satisfactory launch of the Prithvi is testimony to the professional competence and perseverance of Dr. Abdul Kalam, the secretary to the Defense Research and Development Department, and his team.

A 10th launch for such an indigenous missile program is part of the process of designing and developing such weaponry before it can be operationally deployed. As a matter of fact, the rough thumb rule for such missile programs world over cater for up to 20 to 25 satisfactory test launches before these missiles can be cleared for production and ultimate operational use. The scheduled series of test launches of the Prithvi is also an indicator of the steady pace of the integrated missile program of the nation, and the Prithvi apart, there are other missiles at different stages of research and development. The most significant of these is the intermediate-range ballistic missile—the Agni. This IRBM, to use the acronym for this class of missiles, was first launched in May 1989 as a technology demonstrator and is an important constituent of the integrated program. The deeper significance for India lies in the fact that the nation is consolidating its technical expertise in a very crucial area of military capability. More recent advances have made the missile in all its variants the most potent kind of weapon on delivery system in the inventory of a nation, and the 1991 Gulf war demonstrated the efficacy and accuracy of this class of weapons.

Missile technology and production encompasses the entire gamut of advanced ordnance techniques, metallurgy, electronic command, control and guidance systems. Know-how in these areas is zealously guarded and assistance is rarely provided by the nations that have the skills. A global missile technology control regime, or MTCR, regulates sales and assistance of such capability and this is a handicap for nations like India. With a satisfactory launch of Prithvi, a modest but significant step has been taken in the larger goal of self-reliance in a critical area of national endeavor.

Iran

President's First Friday Prayers Sermon 5 Feb

LD0502174093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 5 Feb 93

[First Friday prayers sermon by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 5 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The programs for the first three years of the first five-year plan have been implemented successfully. You can now see examples of this. We currently have around 800,000 students in our universities, in the Free University, and in state universities. This is a very good figure.

We are providing water, electricity, health care, training, and roads to our villages with great speed. We have reduced illiteracy; we have placed children who need compulsory education in the care of state schools. We are also rapidly advancing cultural tasks. This was a great vacuum in our society because we had not paid attention to cultural matters, to sports, recreation, the cinema, theater, and all those things that are needed in our lives. We are implementing cultural programs. This is the most important infrastructural task.

In the field of raw materials, we used to import 3 or 4 million tonnes of steel only a couple of years ago; we exported 700,000 tonnes of steel this year. We produce enough for our needs and export the surplus. We have

plans to export 10 million tonnes. This is an infrastructural task for the entire country. The mines are active and they have started exporting. Aluminum: this was very rare in Iran, now we are one of its exporters. Copper: we are now making many of its alloys and we export them. We have given telephones to everyone and we have broken the black market in telephones. Today we have great plans to sort out our communications situation.

Transport: you knew the difficulties we had. We now either manufacture or import a large number of buses for the towns and roads. Trucks: we have manufactured trucks to the extent that there are some left in the factories, looking for customers. Only a few days ago, we sold 600 buses to Azerbaijan. With those vehicles that are needed by the people—like vans, trucks, mini-buses, and buses—we have achieved self-sufficiency—even better. We have expanded freight car construction. We have taken effective steps on the railroad to rapidly connect Tehran with Bandar Abbas. This will result in great savings in our transport costs. Locomotive production: we will become independent in this industry.

In the most important sphere of our lives, agriculture, we have done very important things. We used to buy 5 million tonnes of wheat per year, now we only buy 2 million tonnes. Considering the fast population growth, it will take a number of years for us to reach self-sufficiency. In chicken and meat production, we have adjusted prices in an effort to make domestic production economical. We no longer need imported chickens or imported eggs. We are taking the final steps in self-sufficiency for cheese and other dairy products.

We have a high-flying plan to harness the waters of your country, which have been wasted from time immemorial. We have plans for 100 dams; 23 of these are being implemented and every year half a dozen dams are completed. [passage omitted]

Very advanced highways are being constructed in the west, east, south, everywhere. This will facilitate and ease transport—you will see.

One of the greatest calamities of our country was this: We have the largest gas reserves in the world. We used to be number two, but I think we are the first now. When Russia, the Soviet Union, was one country, our gas reserves were second. Now the Soviet Union has fallen apart. At the same time, our country did not use gas. This was a serious calamity. You do not know how much we are spending on the expansion of gas networks. Piped gas reaches 150 cities, or will do so by next year. They are digging up the streets and avenues in 150 towns to lay gas pipes so that gas will reach people's homes. Hundreds of factories that used to run on diesel or fuel oil are burning gas today. Gas moves in pipes, it does not have transport difficulties, and it is environmentally friendly. We are investing rapidly to take gas to all the far-reaching places of our country. Once we are saturated, we will export gas. We have joint gas reserves in the sea with our southern neighbors; we have given precedence to these reserves because the neighbors have a lot of money, and with foreign help they might take it all away, leaving our hands empty.

The petrochemical industry is the most important industry in the world today. Most of the big factories that you see in the country use oil by-products for their raw materials. We used to export the oil—as is still the case—then we used to buy petrochemicals from them at high prices and give them to our factories. However, we have now started to commission petrochemical factories, which we have built at a fast rate. In Esfahan, you saw how many centers for petrochemicals and their by-products were commissioned. Tomorrow it will be Arak and then Bandar-e Emam, which are very big. When the Arak petrochemical plant becomes operational by the end of this year [20 March 1993], most of the factories that now import materials at high prices will receive them from our own factories, or they will be exported.

The Bandar-e Emam petrochemical plant, which we were building in collaboration with the Japanese, was destroyed in the war and we are rebuilding it. Of course, Japan's share was returned—it pulled out and we are building it ourselves. It will deliver over 2 million tonnes of valuable products, which will be mostly exported at a very high price.

You see the industries and the market situation yourselves, how the situation was in stores three or four years ago, and how it is now. In those days we were worried about the customer going to the store and not being given the goods, and now we are worried about the factories bringing the goods to the stores and the stores not buying them. Their problems should also be solved, so they will not have any difficulties. [passage omitted]

The country's banks were in such a state after the war that they always made a loss. If you remember, we constantly had cash problems and bank notes were regularly being printed. However, the people now have faith, the banks are making a profit and are active, there is enough money in the banks, and they are injecting large sums into the country's industry and for the country's development. The money that is being accumulated in the banks from the people is being given to economic centers as loans. [passage omitted]

The iron ore mines—which had been left here for millions of years and no one thought about them—those ores are being converted into iron, copper, and other things and are entering our lives. [passage omitted]

The greatest defect that we inherited from the former regime, from which we suffered until a short time ago, was our dependence upon foreign products. Our most important goal in the reconstruction plan is to produce the necessary items for the country in the country itself and not to be dependent upon foreign countries. If they are profitable, we will export them; but, at least, we will use them ourselves. We may not be able to compete with many other countries due to their advanced machinery

Cetin said he believed the statements of the arrested 'Islamic Action' group members should be conveyed to Iran "and I told Mr. Velayati that such issues should not harm mutual relations."

He said he did not think Iran would benefit from supporting anti-Turkish activities and stressed that anything that might harm relations between the two countries should be avoided.

Commentary Views Turkish Journalist's Murder

NC0702150593 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 27 Jan 93 p 15

[Commentary by A. Salah: "An Admonition to the Laicists"]

[Excerpts] On Sunday [24 January], prominent veteran Turkish journalist Ugur Mumcu was killed in a bomb explosion. He was one of the hardline laicist journalists of Turkey who was employed by CUMHURIYET newspaper. He was killed when a bomb placed inside his car exploded. [passage omitted]

Unfortunately, immediately after the assassination, just a few minutes later, the Turkish mass media—without any documented evidence or witnesses—proclaimed that the Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic groups were responsible for his assassination. The Turkish mass media fallaciously deduced that since those killed were staunch opponents of Muslims and Islam, naturally the killers would have to be affiliated with the Islamic revolutionary groups. With such juvenile and naive reasoning, they hastily accused the Muslims. [passage omitted]

It is interesting that on the night of the incident, foreign radios, especially the BBC—which broadcasts a program in Istanbuli Turkish—devoted a large part of their programs to this incident. They all pursued the same line, saying that Iran was directly responsible.

During the BBC's program, the editor in chief of CUMHURIYET—without any evidence to support his claims—stated: "Iran's hands evidently are behind this incident, as the journalist was one of the most vehement opponents of Islam and Muslims!"

The Turkish newspapers published in Istanbul, which are financed by the laicist circles, eulogized and lamented Mumcu on Monday as the "martyr of laicism and democracy."

Unfortunately, the laicist circles are enmeshed in the trap of U.S. policy and they forge ahead in order to implement the arrogant policies of the arch-satan. With their foolish stances and without any sort of evidence—and despite the fact that Mumcu had numerous enemies in the Marxist circles—they attributed this incident to Iran and the Muslims in Turkey, thus providing more grist for the enemy's propaganda mills.

It is regrettable that the Turkish laicist circles are treading the same path which the foolish physician in Moliere's plays had taken in treating his patients. [allusion to a physician attributing all ailments to the kidneys] [passage omitted]

It would be better if the laicist circles of Turkey, especially the chief justice of the Supreme Court of that country, were to strive to eliminate the crisis in the country instead of creating further crises. Experience has shown that pyromaniacs are the first to get burned.

The chief justice had appeared brazenly on Turkish television last week, and addressing the Muslims of the country, stated: "Those who are not laics are not human beings. Those who do not like Ataturk are nothing more than mentally retarded fools." [passage omitted]

In conclusion, I wish to admonish the proponents of laicism, in particular the aforementioned lofty proponent of laicism, that they should not play with the feelings and sentiments of the general public of Turkey and not to take any more steps on the path of the West's plots against the world's Muslims.

Relations With Turkey Viewed

LD0602154993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1105 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Following the assassination of the journalist Ugur Mumcu, who worked for the Turkish newspaper CUMHURIYET, during the past few days we have witnessed the most unprecedented, poisonous propaganda and a polluted atmosphere. It has been created by the Turkish press, various Turkish television networks, and some unidentified elements in that country against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Despite the fact that 12 days have passed since the Mumcu assassination, many Turkish papers still devote their first page headlines to such negative articles, and baseless and spiteful accusations are being placed at the top of that country's television news.

It is worth mentioning that immediately after Mumcu's assassination, the first nationwide Turkish radio and television network broadcast 45 minutes of news and comment and diverted public opinion in a specific direction.

It was a great blunder to accuse certain people, or even a certain country before the situation became clear and even before Turkish security officers stated their position. It is obvious that there are hands at work to implicate Muslims and Iran, in particular, in that incident.

Along the same lines, Turkish Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin also took part in a news conference and said that the Turkish Police have arrested 19 members of an

Islamic group linked to Iran in connection with a series of killings in recent years, that the same people were also involved in the Mumcu assassination, and that they have been trained in a camp in Iran. Even though the Turkish interior minister does not directly accuse Iran of involvement in these killings, such remarks impair the existing atmosphere between the two countries for further improvement of mutual relations.

It is evident that the recent terrorist incidents and the subsequent spiteful propaganda against Iran concerning these terrorist actions have been engineered by the enemies of Islamic countries in order to damage Tehran-Ankara relations and to create discord among various strata of the Turkish people.

It seems that certain elements exist in Turkey who are trying to raise and create clamorous propaganda against Iran regarding the fact that the Mumcu assassination, the visit of Turkish President Turgut Ozal to America, and also the visit of our Iranian Interior Minister Nuri to Turkey occurred simultaneously. They do this to prove their existence and in a bid to influence and find a place for themselves in Western equations.

The people of Turkey will soon find out that these accusations are baseless, as were those accusations levelled against Iran regarding the Cape Maleas ship. The recently released Cypriot-registered ship was carrying some goods to Iran last Mehr [month beginning 23 September] when it was seized by Turkey as it was passing through the Bosphorus and was accused of carrying smuggled goods for the Kurdish rebels of Turkey.

It is worth mentioning that Iran and Turkey have maintained deep and friendly relations in political, cultural, and commercial fields for a long time and, at present, the two countries' authorities should not allow the enemies of the two nations to damage those relations.

It is evident that Iran—which itself is one of the biggest victims of terrorist actions—will never allow Turkish opposition groups to be active on its territory. At the moment, there are agreements on security cooperation between the two countries of Iran and Turkey.

Finally, with regard to the sensitivity of the two countries' relations, it is expected that the Turkish Government will take a number of steps toward strengthening the existing bilateral friendly atmosphere and stopping the propaganda of mischief-making elements in that country.

Zimbabwe's Mugabe Arrives on Official Visit

Welcomed by Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0602103693 Tehran IRNA in English 0850 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 6, IRNA—Zimbabwean President Robert Gabriel Mugabe arrived here on a two-day official visit Saturday and was welcomed at Mehrabad International Airport by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanajani.

Upon arrival, Mugabe told reporters that he is here to discuss Tehran-Harare ties, the activities of the Non-aligned Movement and the world peace. He described Iran-Zimbabwe ties as "good" since the independence of the former British colony in 1980, a year after the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

The Zimbabwean president added that his people, in their independence struggle, had been inspired by the Islamic revolution in Iran whose aim he said was to establish justice.

He reiterated that the Islamic Republic, contrary to the regime of the deposed shah, helped Zimbabwe in its fight against apartheid adding that Iran has many friends in Africa due to standing against the Zionist regime and advocating justice.

Zimbabwe, like Iran, has stood against the occupier regime of Qods [Jerusalem] and backs the Iranian stands, Mugabe stressed.

Also speaking to reporters, Rafsanjani said that having relations with Zimbabwe, as a frontline state against apartheid, is of "high importance" for Iran.

He noted that Mugabe plays "a serious and effective" role in settlement of regional issues and the questions related to Africa and African organizations. The Zimbabwean Government has adopted principled stands ever since its independence, he said.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani described as "favorable" the grounds for Tehran-Harare cooperation in regards to the geographic location of the African state adding that Mugabe's visit will provide a good opportunity to examine the African issues.

He referred to the two visits by leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i to Harare and said they showed his interests in having cooperation with Zimbabwe.

Mugabe is scheduled to meet with Ayatollah Khamene'i during his stay.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Remarks

LD0602153793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In an interview with our correspondent, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has remarked on the existing grounds for cooperation between Iran and Zimbabwe. He said:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Both Mr. Mugabe and his country are important to us. Zimbabwe is one of the frontline states in the struggle against racism in Africa; and Mr. Mugabe himself has a serious role in African issues and African, regional, and world organizations. Since the day of their independence, which was around the same time as Iran's freedom, they have

followed a correct path. They have remained steadfast in their programs and their announced objectives. Zimbabwe's geographical position means that it can have a serious presence in sensitive regions of Africa.

There is much common ground for cooperation. We attach great importance to that country, to the extent that the leader of the revolution has traveled there twice. He is very much in favor of cooperation. I believe this trip, which is at my invitation, is a good opportunity, considering the current issues in Africa, to strengthen and expand cooperation. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Mugabe Interviewed

LD0602155593 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1400 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Interview with Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe by Shirin Askari in Tehran on 6 February—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Askari] Your Excellency President Mugabe, would you explain the main objectives of your trip to Iran?

[Mugabe] Well may I begin by expressing my profound gratitude for the invitation that was made to me to visit Iran. As you are aware, we have established very cordial relations between ourselves, and this even dating back to the days of our own liberation struggle. After your revolution had succeeded, we were glad that Iran took a very positive position in regard to our country, then Rhodesia, by adopting sanctions against it; and that was good solidarity. We then had the visit of his excellency, now your spiritual leader, then President Ayatollah Khamene'i, who came to visit us. That visit went a long way in creating very excellent relations between us.

We will hope to discuss matters of common interest, matters that have to do with our Third World and the Nonaligned Movement, how we can strengthen it, matters that have to do with peace—peace international, peace regional—and bilateral relations—to trade with each other more firmly.

[Askari] How did you find Islamic Republic of Iran's role in African countries?

[Mugabe] I must say that we have been inspired by the revolution that was fought here for justice and against a system that was unjust. That was an inspiration to us as we fought our own liberation struggle. Then when we had the nonaligned summit, the then president—Ayatollah Khamene'i—came and made an immense contribution. The summit was held in Harare in order for the impact of the summit to be felt in southern Africa, especially in regard to South Africa. And we have been very pleased indeed that the Islamic Republic of Iran has, as it were, fought a political struggle with us against the injustice in South Africa, against apartheid. And Iran has won many friends, of course, in Africa who admire the revolution and who support Iran's stand against Zionism here. Then so there is that example which has been said, and we hope that we can continue to be inspired by you.

[Askari] Thank you.

First Round of Talks

LD0602214893 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] The first round of talks between Robert Mugabe and Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the presidents of Zimbabwe and the Islamic Republic of Iran, were held today. In this round of talks, bilateral issues, areas of possible cooperation, and African, regional and international issues were discussed.

Mr. Mugabe said that the purpose of his trip to Iran is to strengthen ties and international cooperation, and to find practical ways of deriving benefit from our country's valuable experiences in the fields of exploiting raw materials, mining, industries, education, and technical training. He also expressed the hope that benefit could be derived from Iran's assistance in the framework of cultural ties between the two countries and toward the establishment of technical institutions in Zimbabwe.

The president of Zimbabwe described the two countries' shared viewpoints on many international issues such as opposition by both countries to racism in South Africa and occupied Palestine, and to Serbian aggression in Bosnia-Hercegovina. He added that if the world accepts that national culture should replace racist culture in all countries, peace and calm will prevail. He referred to the false claims of the major powers regarding the democratization of the world order and described the Islamic Republic of Iran as a country which has raised its search for independence to an international level, adding that Zimbabwe stands alongside Iran. He expressed the hope that in the framework of cooperation between other African countries and the Third World, and unity between these countries, fundamental steps would be taken toward the removal of unjust relations in the world and the establishment of equilibrium between the North and South.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said he welcomes increased cooperation between Iran and Zimbabwe and expressed the willingness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to put its valuable experiences in the field of the extraction of raw minerals, processing industries, and technical know-how at that country's disposal, and he described cooperation between Iran and the Third World countries, especially African countries, as political-commercial priorities for Iran.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani described incorrect economic relations and the absence of serious economic, technical, and educational cooperation among Third World countries as one of the reasons for these countries' dependence on advanced countries for the fulfillment of their needs.

Referring to the potential capabilities of Third World countries, due to the presence of plentiful mineral and human resources, he said: These countries can use their many votes and great strength in international organizations, especially the United Nations, on international issues.

The president referred to international crises and the need to use the true strength of Third World countries to solve such crises rapidly, and he described the Islamic Republic of Iran as a good partner for other Third World countries, especially the African country of Zimbabwe.

Mugabe-Khamene'i Meeting

LD0702172593 Tehran IRNA in English 1614 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 7, IRNA—The Zimbabwean president, Robert Mugabe, here on a two-day official visit, was received by the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, today.

In the meeting, also attended by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Mugabe briefed Ayatollah Khamene'i on his country's internal issues especially on its economic conditions. He also expressed Zimbabwe's stances on African issues, significant world events and the Non-Aligned Movement. Pointing to the hard economic conditions in Zimbabwe, Mugabe called on Iran to help it surmount the consequences of the drought in that country.

Mugabe further congratulated the leader on the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979 calling it a triumph for all the revolutionary people worldwide since, he said, it inspired the oppressed throughout the world.

Ayatollah Khamene'i voiced Iran's readiness to cooperate with Zimbabwe in economic fields and expressed hope that Mugabe's visit to Iran would be a starting point for the expansion of mutual ties. The leader commented that the big powers prevented real cooperation among the developing countries to be materialized. He emphasized the need for the revival of the Non-Aligned Movement through close collaboration of world's small states.

Mugabe Ends 'Fruitful' Visit

LD0802092993 Tehran IRNA in English 0802 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe wound up his 2-day official visit to Tehran Monday terming the result of his talks as fruitful.

Mugabe who was seen off at the airport by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said before departure that a committee would follow up the agreements reached during the talks and a joint commission would be formed to step up economic, commercial and technical ties. He invited President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit Zimbabwe which was accepted, its time to be decided through diplomatic channels.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that a letter of understanding covering various fields of cooperation had been signed between the two countries. Zimbabwe is rich in natural resources and the two countries are to cooperate in the fields of agriculture, mines, industry, oil refining, transfer of technology and educational issues. Iran is to provide Zimbabwe with agricultural and transportation machinery, carpets and oil and will receive corn, sugar and meat in return.

During their meetings, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, they had discussed the crisis zones in Africa and the two countries were of identical views on various international issues including Palestine and Bosnia-Hercegovina. The two countries agreed on cooperation with the United Nations, and also with each other in the framework of the Nonaligned Movement.

The two heads of states signed a joint communique. A letter of understanding on commercial, technical and economic cooperation was also signed between the two countries.

Meanwhile, a number of Iranian ministers held meetings with Mugabe on Sunday afternoon during which mutual ties were discussed.

In a meeting with Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance 'Ali Larijani, the two sides called for promotion of cultural exchanges between the two countries in the framework of the cultural agreement of the Iran-Zimbabwe Joint Commission.

In another meeting with Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hosayn Vahaji, Mugabe voiced his country's readiness to bolster mutual commercial and economic ties and called for the formation of the joint economic commission. Vahaji also stressed boosting of commercial ties between the two countries and called for elimination of obstacles in this connection. He said that Iran can cooperate with Zimbabwe in providing agricultural machinery.

In a meeting with Deputy Minister of Industry Yahya al-Ishaq, Mugabe voiced his country's readiness for joint investments and cooperation in the framework of South-South countries.

Joint Communique Issued

LD0802170393 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] A joint communique was issued by the presidents of Iran and Zimbabwe during the two-day visit to Tehran by Mr. Robert Mugabe, president of Zimbabwe.

In the communique the two countries emphasized the expansion of economic, cultural, and technical cooperation between the two countries. They stressed: So long as

the apartheid regime rules in South Africa, the political, economic, technical, and oil sanctions imposed by the international community against that regime should continue. The two sides also stressed their support for the movements of the African National Congress, the Pan-African Congress, and other anti-apartheid movements.

The communique also stressed the necessity for regional countries to establish lasting peace and security in the Persian Gulf without interference by other countries. It also condemned the expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians from their homeland, the repeated acts of aggression of the Zionist regime against Lebanon, the massacre of the innocent people of Bosnia-Hercegovina by the Serbs, and the fratricide in Afghanistan.

Criticizing the unfair relations between developing and developed countries, the communique stressed the need for more South-South cooperation, for the expansion of ties among Third World countries, for the Nonaligned Movement to play an active role on the international scene, and for strengthening that movement as a powerful organization.

Khamene'i Speaks on Role of Revolution

LD0702170893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1112 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to foreign guests of the revolution anniversary celebrations at Imam Khomeyni Mosque in Tehran on 7 February, on the occassion of the birth anniversary of Imam Mahdi, the 12th Shiite imam—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I, too, would like to convey my greetings on this auspicious occasion to all the Muslims of the world, to all the justice seekers and oppressed of the earth, to the noble and dear Iranian nation, and to you honorable people here, and especially to the guests of the Ten Days of Dawn [revolution anniversary celebrations]. [passage omitted]

What I would like to say today to mark this auspicious anniversary in this honorable gathering of you brothers and sisters is a point that relates to issues concerning the revolution. The point is this: there is no doubt that the victory of the Islamic revolution kindled a hope in the hearts of Muslim nations and, especially, of Muslim combatants throughout the world. It revitalized deadened hearts. All the efforts made and propaganda waged against Islam—nay, against religion itself—were cleansed from the hearts and minds of combatant nations throughout the world by our revolution.

This is why you saw that after the victory of the Islamic revolution, revolutionary movements came into existence or, even if they had existed before, they gained momentum and vigor. Bear in mind also that before the victory of the Islamic revolution, when the youth and conscientious members of a nation wished to embark on a struggle against the oppression that existed in their country or region, they would follow left-wing ideas; they would seek inspiration in that direction; that is where they would obtain their leaflets, pamphlets, and instructions.

In all the movements of the world you would see a leftist imprint. Or it was tried to give them a leftist imprint. It was thought that without connection and attachment to an idea, to a school of thought—a Marxist school, for example—it would be impossible to organize, guide, and win a struggle. This was before the victory of the Islamic revolution. After the victory of the Islamic revolution, we suddenly witnessed that wherever in the world there was a revolutionary and zealous movement against injustice and oppression, it would have a religious imprint. In the Islamic world it would have an Islamic imprint. And in the non-Islamic countries it would have a religious tendency. Even in the early days of the revolution we witnessed struggles that had had Marxist tendencies. After the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, not that the Marxist tendency was completely destroyed, but a religious current was created within it. A religious element entered it. This was the effect of the victory of the Islamic revolution. Therefore, the Islamic revolution of Iran on the one gave hope to combatants; it revived the hearts of the zealous people who wanted to fight against oppression, injustice, and arrogance anywhere in the world. It awakened some nations. It returned Islamic identity to the Islamic countries. There is no doubt about it.

This was the positive effect of the Islamic revolution all over the world.

But at the same time the Islamic revolution had another effect, which was to awaken the enemies of Islam. It gave them experience. Who is the enemy? The anti-Islamic front. World arrogance. What we call arrogance. The dominant powers in the world. Once the symbols of this arrogance were America and the Soviet Union. Today there is no Soviet Union, but America is at the top of the arrogance. The reactionary powers, the antipeople powers, the aggressive powers, the powers who want to hold the weak people of the world for themselves and who believe that the world belongs to them. This is the arrogant front. This is what Islam and the Islamic revolution has to face. They became experienced after the Islamic revolution. When the Islamic revolution came about, the arrogance had no experience with mass Islamic movements. There had been some things earlier. But in this revolution and struggle the arrogance was left without guard. In the early days of the revolution we would clearly see that the enemy was left bewildered and puzzled. It could not understand what had happened. It could not provide a correct analysis of what was happening.

This was the case. After the Islamic Republic was formed, the struggle of this people continued with that

strength. The war occurred; this people's resistance occurred; the leadership of Imam Khomeyni showed itself in various fields. The Islamic bond between the people and the imam showed its various dimensions and the enemy woke up, became alert, and gained experience. Well, this is an important point for both us, the people of Iran, and for Muslims in other parts of the globe.

But Muslims in other parts of the world must pay attention: the Islamic struggle is like a traditional military battle, a classic battle. It is exactly the same, it is a confrontation. When you see the enemy in a military battle showing initiative and starting a move, you try to counter it. When the enemy invents or gets hold of a new weapon, you try to get hold of a weapon to counter that. He gets hold of a tank, you get hold of an antitank weapon. He gets hold of fighter aircraft, you build antiaircraft weapons. You sit, think, show initiative, and counter any move of the enemy. Struggle is just the same. The Islamic movement is just the same. The enemy is using new methods against the Islamic Republic because it has gained experience. Muslims of the world must be alert.

You have seen how the enemy has acted in various Islamic countries. You see what the enemy is doing today in Bosnia- Hercegovina. There are Serbs' actions, and there are the actions of America and Europe. They too are helping in this genocide with their silence, carelessness, and by pretending to care—in fact, they do not. This is one form of the enemy's moves—it is new. You can see the methods used in Palestine. You can see how the enemies in this world and their local agents are operating in resisting Islamic movements in various Islamic countries, such as Algeria and other places. One way in India, one way in Tajikistan—a different method depending on the situation in each country. The enemy is constantly plotting to confront Islamic movements. Muslims must also guide each others' thoughts; they must negotiate with each other and use each others' experiences. They must open the doors to each other and help each other to find new ways. Experience brings us new initiatives.

Inside the Islamic Republic, inside Islamic Iran—which is the center of the enemy's aggressive attention—the enemy is using its experiences to the full. We the people of Iran must be aware. The enemy understands a number of points due to its experience. It understands that Iran is the main center for advancing the Islamic revolution and that they must confront Iran.

One point was the influence of the imam, that outstanding and unique and honorable leader. That was one point.

The enemy saw what the influence of the leadership does in Islamic Iran. It saw how that friendly relationship between the leader and the nation solves all problems and breaks deadlocks at various times. The enemy saw how the influence of the imam, that eminent leader, mobilized the people against the enemy at various times.

Very well, that was one point on which the enemy concentrated. The experience that the enemy gained was that it should attack the leadership and the person of the imam of the Islamic nation may he be admitted to God's paradise, and the absolute Islamic leadership—what we know as the government of the jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih] in our revolutionary and Islamic knowledge.

The enemy concentrated most of its propaganda against the imam; but in a guided and precise manner. Of course, it had no effect.

Today there is also adverse propaganda being waged against the imam in various parts of the world and by some enemy agents inside Iran. But they leave the name of the imam out of it. They know that they cannot get close to the name of the imam and insult it. But hirelings and people who have sold-out or ignorant pens question the path of the imam, the work of the imam, and the history of the revolution. What is the aim of those who write articles questioning the early years of the revolution? What are they after? Who do they think they are confronting? They are confronting the imam. It was the leadership of the imam that helped this nation follow the most difficult paths for 10 years. Who could rescue a country destroyed by the agents of the enemy and the corrupt Pahlavi regime? He rescued a country in the middle of a destructive war. Who could do such a thing? That was the leadership of the imam, and that is what they are questioning. They are questioning the Islamic leadership.

The concept of the leadership of the jurisconsult [rahbari-e faqih] means the rule of religious experts. What does jurisconsult [faqih] mean? Jurisconsult means someone who is well versed in religious knowledge. The path that religion has drawn is that the people may achieve prosperity, good fortune, freedom, and happiness in this world and the next. Jurisconsult knows it well and offers it to the people. That is what jurisconsult means. There is a rationality behind the leadership of such a person. There is a firm reasoning behind the leadership of such a person. Such reasoning does not apply to the leadership of a military figure, the leadership of a capitalist, or the leadership of a professional politician. Nevertheless, they call the rule of the jurisconsult into question: foreign articles, foreign propaganda, news agencies, the press, radio and television, or the mercenaries inside the country. Of course, thanks to God's grace, there is freedom in our country. We will not let them destroy this freedom by their actions.

Some seek to provoke us into action by their writings. No! Let them write. Some want to level defamatory remarks at us so as to provoke us into fighting the press; then they could tell the world: Look! there is no freedom in the Islamic Republic. No! We will not be deceived. We had freedom of the press in the throes of the Iran-Iraq war—a situation in which such press freedom does not

exist in any country. Now look at the number of newspapers and magazines that are currently being published in Iran. What country has so many newspapers and magazines? And they write whatever they wish. All of what I have just said you will find in those magazines. Of course, the people are generally unaware of what they write. The reason is that the people do not pay attention to them. They do not waste their time in reading such writings. But they write, as we are informed. Let them write. But, dear nation, you must know why they are writing. Their objective is this: The enemy has been severely harmed by the influence of the imam, the personality of the imam, and the influence of the leadership at every juncture. The enemy is grief-stricken. One of the issues the enemy wants to challenge is the issue of leadership and the influence of the leadership.

The second issue on which the enemy is targeting is the issue of youth. In Islamic Iran and in the cradle of the revolution, our young people were raised to be devout. One can say that the devoutness of our youth is unprecedented, or at least rare. Personally, I do not know of a precedent. Our youth enter the scenes of danger, free of various corruptions and carnal desires; it relinquishes everything, all comforts, in the cause of a divine movement for which it deems itself responsible. Yes! The devout youth—yet another thing the enemy is very much against. They endeavor to prevent our youth from remaining devout. We know today of factions and hands that seek to corrupt the youth by turning them into armed opposition. Of course we will encounter them. We resist them forcefully, wherever they may be. They pose a threat to a generation.

Another issue that was very important to the enemy was that of the popular nature of the government, the Majles, and the country's officials. If you look at countries where there is democracy, you will see that often the rulers are either made up of the capitalists, those dependent on the capitalists, or the lackeys of the capitalists. The legislatures are often filled with people who are influential, rich, and powerful. This applies to countries that boast about democracy—well-known countries. Most of those people who take the helm are related to the families and relatives of established political, financial, or military figures or strata who possess wealth and influence. This is not the case in Islamic Iran. The Majles relies on figures who are representative of the masses: a teacher, a farmer, a cleric, a doctor, a storekeeper, a student who gain people's votes. The government is the same. Those who are responsible for government tasks are people who have spent their youths and lives in struggles and hardships, such as our dear president. This honorable person has devoted his life and youth to these struggles. His colleagues, too, are those who have become involved in responsible tasks because of their record of struggle. None of them are linked to a wealthy family, to an aristocratic chain, to a famous long-established family, to a company, to a powerful and rich strata. They are ordinary people; they have employed a doctor, a committed expert. The government is a popular one; that is why the people love the Majles, the government, and officials. They know they are their own kind.

This is another issue on which the enemy is concentrating. The enemy endeavors to belittle the government and the officials in the eyes of the people, rendering them incapable. This is the work of the enemy. They fabricate the news; they present facts as untrue. Another issue on which the enemy is concentrating is the issue of the clergy. It was the clergy, who because of their popularity and influence amongst the people, had managed to carry the message of struggle to the depths of the society during the period of repression. They informed every one of the imam's views. That is what the combatant clergy [ruhaniyat-e mobarez] did. The people loved the clergy and trusted them. That is the way it has been for centuries in our country.

Our nation's clergy—the Islamic clergy in our country—is dependent upon the people. It has never been dependent on any powers before, and it is not today, either. It is 100 percent popular. Praise be to God, the people have, and continue to, regard the clergy as pious. They regard the clergy as a pure, sound, and trustworthy body. We can see the enemy is drawing on its experiences with regard to the clergy. It has understood that it must present the clergy as devoid of credibility and integrity. That is their aim. They wage propaganda; they lie; they make a mountain out of a molehill; they do not publicize the good deeds, the sacrifices, and the dedications so as to belittle the clergy in the eyes of the people. They repudiate their knowledge; they repudiate their piety—just as they did for 50 years in the Pahlavi regime. The clergy, which is an educational and pious body, had been presented by the spokesmen of the Pahlavi regime as devoid of knowledge and piety. That is how it was. Today, too, the same propaganda is in force. This is the chain of the enemies' actions. The Iranian nation, by virtue of religion, alacrity, and unity of word has so far managed to cross all obstacles. [crowd chants "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to the counterrevolutionaries," "Death to America," "Death to Israel," "Death to the hypocrites [monafeqin]"] Take care to maintain this alacrity. This alacrity that emanates from religious belief and faith. It enjoins on us commands such as unity of word. We must safeguard this with all our being and might. Our enemies must know the Iranian nation, thanks to its religious knowledge, will not fear the enemies' threats and bullying, just as it has not feared the enemy's threats throughout the length of this path.

The powerful want the world to be filled with tyranny. They do not say that, but that is what they are aiming at. They resort to tyranny in order to secure their own interests.

We are against tyranny and bullying. We have risen and made efforts to establish equity and justice and this nation is still endeavoring for the same things. It is obvious that the movement toward establishing equity and justice will succeed over the movement that is

against it. There is no doubt about that. The world is moving towards equity and justice—and that is the meaning of the Lord of the Age [Imam Mahdi, the 12th Shiite imam] and the meaning of waiting for deliverance. [passage omitted]

We believe that Muslim nations—wherever they might be in the world—will succeed if they decide to defend Islam and defend the victory of Islam; if they decide to defend justice, speak of justice, confront tyranny, defend Islam—the Islam that supports the oppressed and tyrannized—not saying that the world powerful have dominated everywhere in the whole world. The enemies themselves have displayed their power as magical. The fact of the matter is that their actual power is very different from what they claim it to be. If America had the power that it claims and suggests to have, there should not have been any sign of the Palestinian struggles today. You see that the Palestinian struggle is advancing day by day. The Palestinians who have been expelled from their homes in such cold a winter are posing the most severe problems for the usurper Zionist regime. It is the Palestinian strugglers who are strong. It is they who will be victorious if they are patient. Resorting to the expulsion of the Palestinians, the usurper and malicious Israelis have made a huge blunder. They have trapped themselves in an awkward position. Any direction they move toward they are doomed to fail, and blows will be dealt against them. [crowd chants "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Down with those opposing the rule of the supreme jurisconsult," "Down with America," "Down with Britain," "Down with the hypocrites," "Down with Israel," "Islam is victorious, America is annihilated!"]

Anything they do they will be defeated. If they return them they are defeated; if they keep them they are defeated; if they execute them they are defeated; if they imprison them they are defeated. Of course, that is if the strugglers do not get tired and stand up and resist and do not change their word. That is the way the enemy is. It can be defeated. All the enemies who fight against nations can be defeated.

We hope the attention of the Lord of the Age—our souls be sacrificed for him and may God hasten his appearance—is drawn toward this dear nation and all Muslim nations, and God's mercy come to you, God willing. God's peace and mercy be upon you. [crowd chants "O Khamene'i, we are all your soldiers, ready for your orders"]

Khamene'i Addresses Air Force Commanders

LD0802140393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1116 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to Air Force commanders on the occasion of Air Force Day "this morning" in Tehran—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Look at the situation in the world today. This is unprecedented in history. A collective alien to lofty human objectives has gained control over modern equipment and wealth. Those who outline the policies of arrogant powers do not have even the slightest idea of human aims and aspirations; do not doubt this. They are working for evil aims, they are working for anti-human objectives. How can a human being accept the horrific crimes that have continuously occurred during our contemporary history with such modern equipment?

These can be used for correct purposes. Nuclear explosions, chemical explosions on oppressed people; and defending honor is not on the agenda. A bullying power sits in one corner of the world, it plots against all of the world in order to get their resources, in order to dominate them politically and economically. Is there a possibility that human aims exist in these actions? [passage omitted]

What human ideals were the former colonial powers seeking? How is it possible to think that these actions have humanistic aims? It is the same today. Look and see. The powers make decisions in total contradiction to national interests. Wherever there is true injustice, where one group is unjust to another, they never act to defend the victim or stand against the aggressor. Well, look and see. It is not particular to the present. It has always been the same. Where their own interest is concerned, they involve themselves, and should it be necessary they will keep quiet, even if the meek are oppressed.

This is world politics today. In the Balkan region, ethnic cleansing is taking place. A group—which happens to have more weapons than the rest—is attacking and killing an opposing group. They massacre, kill by hunger, and force them into hard labor in camps. The very same camps shown in the anti-Nazi British and American films around the world. The camps that the Nazis had. They establish the same camps. Rape their women's honor. Destroy their houses. What is a greater oppression? And you see that nothing is being done to defend the oppressed. Why? Because here, defending the oppressed is not in the interest of the West. It is not in their interest. It brings no markets. It brings no oil. It brings no mines or underground sources. Here they keep silent. Some of them even help the aggressor. And we know some governments that help the Serbs and the leftovers of the former Yugoslavia. There is no action here.

But in the case of Kuwait, in Iraq's aggression against Kuwait, since it was in their own interest, they involve themselves. And when they involve themselves, they have no respect for people, humans, the environment, or any other dear thing. They do not discriminate between innocent victims, who would be destroyed in the bombardments, and the aggressive soldiers. And finally, as you see, they are now somehow supporting Saddam Husayn.

This is the world. These are the policies ruling over this world. Why are nations remaining silent in the face of such policies? Or if they do make noise, the governments do not let their voices reach the world; because there is pressure from the powers; because the superpowers [as heard] nip any cry in the bud anywhere in the world. The Islamic Republic is privileged in the sense that its nation and its government encounter and oppose this general oppression and are not affected by any force. [crowd chants "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to counter-revolutionaries," "Death to America," "Death to Israel," "Death to the monafeqin of Saddam;"]

No force has any effect on this nation and government. It is for that reason that they have focused their entire attack, their total enmity and zeal on encountering this nation and government. Because they have all become silent except Iran. Because the others do not raise any serious protest. Here the revolution has strengthened the heart-raised cries and raised fists; the people protest and the nation and the government fight against this adverse situation in the world. This is the fight against oppression. This is what has turned the Islamic Republic into a role model for which the world has respect. This is why, despite all the rumors that are circulating against the Islamic Republic—there are so many rumors against the Islamic Republic, something new every day—the Islamic Republic's influence is gaining strength among nations. Why? Because the people, wherever they may be around the world, sincerely support right and justice. Even if their muscles do not cooperate, their hearts love justice. They understand that this land acts with sincerity.

Look at the sensation they have created over weapons. Those very people who, during the Cold War, in these past years; those very powers which have filled the world with their advanced, super-advanced, and semi-advanced weapons in order to earn cash, and boost their industries—they have even waged war to sell their weapons. They have armed some nations to the teeth—they have armed governments against their nations. They have exported weapons to countries who do not have the capacity to use them. Those very powers that continue to sell weapons in irrational ways have created a sensation, claiming that the Islamic Republic is purchasing weapons. What are these weapons which the Islamic Republic, bearing in mind its strength, size, population, and position, is to have obtained or manufactured, thus causing such a sensation? We are in the process of defending ourselves. We will arm ourselves to the extent needed for self-defense, and not any more. And in arming ourselves, we seek to become self-sufficient.

We abhor the idea of wasting this nation's money for purchasing various weapons from various corners of the globe, which are not needed and have no impact in terms of defense. We do not favor militarism for the government and the nation. We deem defense—legitimate defense—as our right.

And in defense, we depend on faith and spirituality. This is the very same Air Force that was not supported for many years. They calculated that the Air Force would be paralyzed. Unable to take a step. But you witnessed the acts of the Air Force on the day that the country needed it. And it will always be the same. What was the reason? It was due to faith and love. It was due to the sincerity that the faithful elements of the force had and continue to have. This was the correct path. All your services are for this path. It is against oppression. They want to dominate Iran. They cannot bear to see that, at this important juncture and in this sensitive geographical region, a government and country refuses to surrender to the oppression of the oppressors. They bring pressure. Fortunately, the more pressure they bring, the stronger the Islamic Republic becomes. It become more independent, more against pressure. We have not taken—and will not take—one step back from the ideals of the Islamic Republic. [crowd chants slogans]

I have to declare that the activities of the Air Force continue in proper form, in every respect, and particularly in some respects. [passage omitted]

U.S. Gives 'Vengeful' Image of Iran

LD0602212093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1622 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] On the 14th anniversary of the Islamic revolution in Iran two views and expressions—one by the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution in a meeting with Islamic Revolution Guard Corps and the other by the president answering the various questions of domestic and foreign correspondents—have once again elicited discussions in the international media on the various aspects of the Islamic revolution by political elites and experts, each with his own particular motive and platform, expressing a view on the revolution.

In analyzing the important speech of the leadership and the president, the international media has sometimes understood their views to be contradictory and at other times to be based on a common strategy.

Even 14 years after the February 1979 Islamic revolution and subsequently the establishment of an Islamic republic in Iran, the views on the Islamic revolution of Western experts and correspondents, as well as of the experts influenced by the West, continue to be defective and suffer from major defects.

For this reason the Westerners have failed to adopt a balanced behavior toward it. Or at least they have refused to accept the realities of Iranian society, which are outside their control, as independent and permanent phenomenon.

A review of the various questions of the foreign correspondents in their extensive interview with the country's president, as well as the actual policies of the West with

regard to Iran, points toward this fact. The news and propaganda of the Western media, American and European, have two main objectives: first is [word indistinct] with their own internal society; second to act as a leverage for their foreign policy.

This responsibility in domestic affairs is maintained through a complex psychological method in influencing and being influenced, while the governments and holders of power guide the system and shape the public opinion which is used as a support for the government policies in domestic and foreign affairs.

The ultimate outcome of the system is the present reality of the Western media, some of which are attached to Western diplomatic establishment. And this is very obvious, at least for our people. [passage omitted]

In this news conference a number of American and British correspondents were extremely inquisitive about the final political relations between Tehran and Washington and in various ways they tried to point their finger at a new issue in the president's answers. But the answers given by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani were totally clear and rational.

Following the principles of the Islamic revolution, he called on America to abandon its enmity toward Islam and the Iranian revolution, and to review its mistaken thoughts mingled with hegemony and arrogance. He pointed out the return of Iranian people's blocked assets as the first step expected by Iran from America.

The reasonable interpretation of Iran's people and officials of the behavior of the United States toward the Islamic revolution is totally disheartening. The terms of office of Carter, Reagan, and Bush, at least during the past 14 years, have been brimming with opposition to Iran. Equipping the enemies of the Islamic revolution and encouraging them to invade Iranian territory and, moreover, the dispatch of military forces by the United States to Iran are not things which the Iranian people will forget easily.

The image of Iran which is presented by Western media and suggested by the remarks of U.S. officials are deliberately vengeful. Western and U.S. leaders are still unable to give a clear answer to their own public as to why their human rights lever is only deployed against Iran and, even then, on the basis of lies; whereas their support and backing for their allies in the region has no bounds in terms of adherence to human rights criteria.

The president's explanation about our country's defense system and his emphasis on the point that Iran's submarine poses no threat to the region, unfortunately received either no coverage or the most limited coverage by the Western media, whose representatives attended the recent news conference. It would be no exaggeration to say that this censorship, applied despite the existence of media which have greater independence vis-a-vis their government's policies, acts as a complement to Western, especially U.S., politicians' attempts to sow fear among regional countries about Iran.

The Islamic revolution, despite the biased propaganda about it which is mainly spread by the United States throughout the world, is peace-loving and a supporter of the legitimate rights of nations and governments to determine their own destinies, and the attraction of the masses to the Islamic movement, especially in Islamic countries, is a sign of their devotion to the ideals of unity and fraternity between all the Muslims of the world. The Islamic Republic of Iran extends a hand of friendship and fraternity, on the basis of this principle, toward every country and, although it takes the initiative in the establishment of constructive links, it is unwilling to sacrifice any firm Islamic principle to passing interests.

Support for the oppressed people of the world, especially for Muslims who are subjected to cruelty anywhere in the world, is one of the fundamental principles of our regime. No compromise is acceptable on these principles, and it considers this stance to be necessary for the dignity and honor of all Islamic governments: that they should always keep in mind the interests of the Islamic community [ummah] and the destiny of all Muslims.

In a world in which big powers act in any way they like toward the oppressed people of the world and see their rights only through the angle of their so called national and vital interests, it is a source of pride for the Muslims of the world that their creed should include as a value the defense of the oppressed.

The recent description by the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution of the dangers which threaten any revolution or popular movement and his depiction of the way in which the independence and honor of the Islamic Revolution can be preserved in the face of its enemies is a source of pride and honor for all Iranians. The strength of the country's executive officials in maitaining this honor arises from that very spirit of opposition to oppression inspired by the teachings of that great revolutionary of this age, the late leader, the idol-crushing imam of the ummah.

Velayati on Ties With Central Asia, Egypt

NC0602210093 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 28 Jan 93 p 2

["Exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati by an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, new horizons have opened up for Iran in its relations with the Central Asian countries and new hopes also have emerged. Apparently, however, we have not been sufficiently active on the political scene and we also have let other rivals enter the cultural and economic scenes. What is your view on this?

[Velayati] What Iran has gained in the Central Asian republics is no less than what the Foreign Ministry expected. After Russia we are Azerbaijan's largest trading partner, and our contacts with these republics are increasing each day. It is easy to speak about close contacts, but to establish these close contacts efforts and time are needed. If you look at the list of what we have done or are doing regarding these republics, you definitely will see that this list is in the hundreds. But the important point is that while not showing haste in strengthening relations, the Islamic Republic of Iran also does not allow time to slip by. In other words, we do not act hastily and carelessly. We have allowed the republics to choose and to cooperate with us for as long and as much as they want. We are completely ready and have conducted many activities in these republics. As for Tajikistan, if a problem has emerged, this problem has nothing to do with us, but is a Tajikistan domestic problem. The problem is between two groups that are confronting each other. On the one side there are the Muslim and democratic groups, and on the other there are the groups that are faithful to the previous system.

We do not interfere in the domestic affairs of others. Iran's policy is to expand relations on the basis of reciprocity. We do not want to impose our friendship on anyone. This can be gleaned from remarks by foreigners as well. When it was said that Iran and Turkey are rivals in the Central Asian republics, I repeatedly stated that we have no competition with Turkey. These are our neighboring countries, and we have and will have good relations with them on the basis of good-neighborliness. Turkey, too, can have good relations. What the Westerners have attempted to do is change the atmosphere of regional friendship and understanding into a tense climate and to terrify the newly independent countries. On the whole, we are satisfied with the course that our relations with the new republics have taken and with the volume and quality of these relations. There have been many activities to help expand relations, and various delegations constantly are being exchanged.

[Correspondent] The issue of resuming relations with Egypt has sparked much discussion at home and also has given rise to resistance inside the country. In view of this, what stage is the establishment of relations at, and how do you assess the domestic circles' approach to this issue?

[Velayati] There have been and currently are cultural, economic, scientific, and international relations between Iran and Egypt, and offices looking after the two countries' interests have been opened in Tehran and Cairo. The Egyptian people have a long history and a deep-rooted culture. Their involvement with Islam is as old as Islam itself. The Egyptian people have had cultural and ideological relations with the Iranian people since Islam began. We do not deny these relations. Also, we do not have any problems as far as such relations are concerned. But our relations with Egypt are only at the level of offices safeguarding our interests.

[Correspondent] In other words, there is a possibility that relations between the two countries will resume in the future?

[Velayati] For the time being they will stay only at the level of these offices.

[Correspondent] The crisis in the Persian Gulf continues and foreign countries are present in the region more than ever before. Many security plans for the region have been considered and most of the countries that participate in these plans are situated outside the region's geographic boundaries. Meanwhile, Iran has only reacted to the security plans that have been proposed in the Persian Gulf, and apart from propounding general plans, it has not put forth any new proposal. The Western powers and countries such as Egypt and Syria, however, have included themselves in the security plans. Has Iran not been basically defensive in this field? Why do we not put forth any plans? We can include in these plans countries such as Pakistan and India, which are both geographically and traditionally closer to Iran. When Syria and Egypt interfere in the region, why should we not demand that our friends also play a larger role in regional security?

[Velayati] We do not believe that we are in a defensive position. Some countries on the southern coast of the Persian Gulf thought of forming a regional cooperation group 10 years ago. We do not request regional cooperation from anyone. If we see mutual interests among countries, we create regional cooperation in the same way that we did with ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization]. We formed ECO on the basis of the Izmir Pact, which was signed before the revolution. Everyone is aware that Iran insisted, more than the others, that this regional cooperation group be formed.

Today this organization has become more important than ever. We will be going to Quetta, Pakistan soon to participate in the foreign ministers conference of the 10 ECO member countries. We thought about this and took effective steps toward it, and the first ECO session was held a year ago in Tehran. The next session will be held in early Tir [month beginning 22 June] in Ankara. We and Pakistan are participating in the ECO session. Trying to form a special cooperation council for the Persian Gulf regarding the Arab regional countries will be a defensive act. What are we worried about? Iran is present in the Persian Gulf, in the Hormuz Strait, and in the Sea of Oman, and this cooperation in ECO extends through Turkey to the Black Sea, through Pakistan to the Indian Ocean, and to the Russian borders in the north. I do not know why there is this insistence that we definitely should duplicate in the northern Persian Gulf what exists in the southern Gulf. We did not create ECO in reaction to the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. We do not beg for regional cooperation from anyone. What need is there to try to guess what some might want to do and to get a head start on them, or to duplicate something that others have begun? By doing so what do we want to prevent? Through this can we

prevent the littoral countries in the southern Persian Gulf from establishing relations with other countries on the basis of their priorities? We were in the heat of the war that had been imposed on us by Iraq; and possibly one of the major factors that helped form the GCC was that war. We do not feel that we are facing any shortcomings as far as regional cooperation is concerned. As for cooperation with GCC members, we cooperate with them as much as they are willing to cooperate, and it is their business if they are unwilling to cooperate.

[Correspondent] Arms purchases in the region are increasing more and more each day. Even though we believe that we are the least involved in this situation, if one day the race truly intensifies, then new problems will emerge in the long run. The revival of some regional pacts or new forms of bilateral or multilateral pacts can prevent this race up to a certain extent. Is the Foreign Ministry studying any plans or proposals on this?

[Velayati] We support lesser arms purchases in the region. The amount that has been allocated in the budget for 1372 [year beginning 21 March 1993] for the Islamic Republic's arms purchases, which was also stated in the Majles, is the minimum compared with what others spend. But the reason for other countries' arms purchases is not what you asked. Arms purchases are a means for the money of rich countries to be pocketed by arms exporting countries. By creating an artificial regional conflict and by intimidating countries, they force them to buy arms or to create tension in a region. Therefore, if there was a way to prevent wasting the money of the Muslims and of the Third World countries in useless arms purchases, we would certainly do so. We would help other countries stop such purchases. But it is not as though they will listen to us and wait for us to express our views before they buy arms.

[Correspondent] You are among the cabinet's ministers who have been in office for the longest time. In a general assessment of your term in office, which included the period of war and the period of easing foreign relations, what objectives do you have and what problems are you facing in the course you are pursuing? Does Dr. Velayati envision a future that is separate from the Foreign Ministry? What has your most important achievement been in this period? What does Dr. Velayati want to be recorded as the most important task during his term in office?

[Velayati] If there is one thing I want to stress as an achievement by my colleagues at the Foreign Ministry during the past years, it is defending the political barricades of the country during war and peace and defending the rights of the nation. I think that my colleagues at the Foreign Ministry are proud that they successfully carried out this defense with God's help and with the support of the nation.

I myself want God almighty's blessings so that I can carry out my duties. I am a doctor by profession and also a university professor.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Your Excellency, for granting us this interview. We have many other questions, which we will ask you another time.

[Velayati] We will hold a more detailed discussion the first chance we get.

Airliner Said To Collide With 'Military' Plane

LD0802095093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] A Tupolev passenger plane collided with a military Sukhoy aircraft in the vicinity of Mehrabad Airport before noon today. Both aircraft crashed. According to the Central News Unit, the Tupelov, which was on its way from Tehran to Mashhad, had 119 passengers with 12 crew members. According to this report, the pilot of the passenger plane was Russian.

[Tehran IRNA in English at 0918 GMT on 8 February reports that all 119 passengers and 12 crewmembers aboard the passenger aircraft were killed.]

Naval Exercises Begin in Waters Off Khuzestan

LD0502173493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] The second phase of Fath [Victory] exercises started in Khuzestan waters today. At this stage of the exercises, Navy gunboats attacked the support vessels of an imaginary enemy using artillery, mortar, missiles and rockets. Then, given support fire by small Navy battleships, Islamic Revolution Guard Corps rangers and naval brigades carried out their operations to recapture an island from an imaginary enemy.

Final Stage of Exercises

LD0602123493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] The final stage of the Fath-2 [Victory] exercises was held in the waters of the northern Persian Gulf today.

[Unidentified correspondent] During this phase of the exercises, the marine, engineering, and armored units of the naval forces of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC] of the third marine region of Imam Husayn, peace be upon him, of Mahshahr, accompanied by the self-sacrificing basij [mobilization] forces, carried out a lightning strike and undertook sea and ground operations.

In the last stage of the massive Fath-2 exercise, the marine brigade occupied the command headquarters and destroyed the tactical base of the imaginary enemy. The positions of the enemy were heavily shelled from two sides by frigates and speed boats. The armored units landed in the positions of the supposed enemy and

engaged them, thereby destroying all the positions, equipment, and installations of the imaginary enemy.

The deputy commander of the headquarters of the massive joint Fath-2 operations spoke to us regarding the conclusions reached from this exercise. He said: The Mahshahr base of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran actively participated in this massive operation with full coordination with the IRGC naval units. He then described the actions of the supporting gunboats, with their very accurate and appropriate fire, in recapturing the positions of the imaginary enemy as very effective. He said: In this exercise, after the stationing of our forces, heavy antiaircraft fire scattered the aircraft of the imaginary enemy which intended to attack imaginary positions in the waters of the Persian Gulf. Our forces also consolidated their positions.

* Family Consumption of City Dwellers Drops

93AS0443L London KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] In a report on urban family consumption in Iran, the Central Bank has made a comparison between the amount and kind of consumption in 1356 [21 Mar 1977-20 Mar 1978] (one year prior to the Islamic revolution) and 1369 [21 Mar 1990-20 Mar 1991], 12 years after the revolution, and has reached the conclusion that not only has consumption decreased in terms of quality but the quantity of consumption has also decreased significantly.

As an example, the consumption of rice decreased from 296 kg per family per year to 190 kg, red meat from 148 kg to 93 kg, poultry from 61 kg to 52 kg, cheese from 28 kg to 24 kg, butter from 10 kg to 4 kg, shortening from 82 kg to 42 kg, sugarcubes and sugar from 170 kg to 78 kg, tea from 12 kg to 9 kg, and legumes from 47 kg to 37 kg.

The report of the Central Bank considers this decrease due to such reasons as the "imposed war" and "economic chaos."

On the other hand, the consumption of bread has increased from 538 kg in 1356 to 736 kg in 1369.

* Per Capita Income Falls to Third World Level

93AS0443G London KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jan 93 p 4

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] The ECONOMIST, a journal published in London, in its "special annual" edition devoted to "The World in 1993," estimates the gross per capita production for Iran as $957. This journal, in its "annual" 1992 issue, had calculated the gross per capita production for Iran as $1,228 per year. It seems that in both evaluations, the economic experts of the ECONOMIST have calculated the actual rate of rials in dollars. In 1977, the gross per capita production in Iran was $2,400.

The evaluation of the ECONOMIST is close to the opinion of the experts of the Iranian Plan and Budget Organization experts. The essential policies of the Second Economic, Social, and Cultural Development Plan of the Islamic Republic, which has recently been devised by the Plan and Budget Organization, state: "Now, our country, with a per capita production of about 1 million rials annually at the current prices (about $1,000), is among such Third World countries as Cameroon, Congo, Thailand, Tunisia, Colombia, Paraguay, and Peru (RESALAT, 3 Aban 1371 [25 Oct 1992]).

We must add that in its evaluation of the per capita production of Iran in dollars, the Plan and Budget Organization of the Islamic Republic has based its calculation on 100 tomans per dollar; however, if, considering the creation of a single foreign currency, it were based on 145 tomans per dollar, it would then become $689 annually. In this case, in terms of annual per capita production, Iran is not even on the level of Cameroon, but about 12 steps below this African country. Also, if the $689 figure is used as a base, the per capita production in Israel is 18 times, in Turkey three times, in Jordan two and a half times, and Tunisia, twice that of Iran.

The gross domestic production [GDP] includes the value of all final goods and services that are produced within the geographic boundaries of a country during a particular period of time, one year for instance. The Iranian economy is comprised of four sectors, agriculture, oil, industries and mines, and services. The GDP is calculated by adding up the added value of the four sectors and other minor changes. Considering the increase in the social inequalities in Iran, the drop in the GDP is not distributed among families equally; the situation of the lowest groups has worsened and the highest has improved. This phenomenon has "set aside" a vast section of the Iranian population and places them among the poorest Third World countries. According to statistics published by some Tehran news sources (for instance, SALAM, 18 Aban 1372 [10 Oct 1993; as published]), 100,000 to 200,000 Iranian families are extremely rich, while 60 to 70 percent of the country lives under the poverty level.

* Iranians Source of Local Merchants' Discontent

93AS0443H London KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] Iranian merchants, ignoring the land disputes between Iran and Abu Dhabi over Tonb-e Bozorg, Tonb-e Kuchek, and Abu Musa Islands, sell their wares to the residents of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] every day from their boats in one of the ports of that country.

According to news agency reports, the trade activities take place with the permission of the Abu Dhabi officials, but local businessmen are very upset about this issue, and some have complained to the government that the presence of Iranian businessmen has driven them to bankruptcy.

Iranian merchants reach this port in Abu Dhabi after three days of travel in the Persian Gulf, but since they

are not allowed to enter the island, they have to sleep on their boats at night. But during the day time, from early morning they spread out their wares of clothing, food, carpets, household equipment, and electrical appliances for sale. UAE officials said: Sheykh Za'ed, the ruler of the Emirates, has personally issued the permit to Iranian merchants to facilitate trade, and Iranian sellers are only charged 2 percent in taxes.

Salim al-Mansuri, the director of this port, told reporters: This port is free, and we intent to develop free trade in this region. He said: The activities of the small port began with 75 boats, and now there are 75 ports. Soon we will make arrangements to have room for 160 boats.

The director of the port added: Even though the quality of goods produced in Iran is lower than that of similar goods manufactured in Western and Far Eastern countries, demand is high. 'Ali Raja'i, an Iranian merchant, pointed out that since Iranian-manufactured goods are less expensive than equipment manufactured in other countries, the low-income classes welcome them and added: The needs and equipment offered on the Abu Dhabi markets are 50 percent more expensive than the goods that we sell, because we do not pay for electricity and labor. Moreover, the difference in price is also an issue. Iran and the UAE have close trade relations and 100,000 Iranians live in the UAE. The volume of trade between Iran and the UAE in 1370 [21 Mar 1991-20 Mar 1992] amounted to $500 million and it is expected that despite the existing differences between the two countries, this amount will increase in 1371 [21 Mar 1992-20 Mar 1993].

Pakistan

UAE Vice President Arrives for 4-Day Visit

BK0702152693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Excerpt] The vice president and prime minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] has said his country has always taken pride in the achievements of Pakistan because they add to the strength of the Islamic world. In an arrival statement at Islamabad airport, he said as close neighbors and brothers in Islam, Pakistan and UAE are privileged to consult each other from time to time on bilateral, regional, and international issues. The importance of this process to our two countries has grown over the years along with the widening of our relations, a fact often emphasized by the UAE president, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. He said both sides attach great value to this exchange of views and his meetings with the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, and his colleagues during his stay will continue this useful tradition. Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid Al Maktum was accorded a warm welcome as he arrived in Islamabad this afternoon on a four-day state visit to Pakistan. He was received by the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. [passage omitted]

Meets With Sharif

BK0802045093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Formal talks between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] were held in Islamabad last night. Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif led the Pakistani side, while Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, the visiting vice president and prime minister of UAE, headed his country's delegation. The talks covered bilateral affairs and mutual cooperation with special attention to means to expand cooperation in the fields of trade and economy. It was decided that ministerial sessions would be held to increase bilateral cooperation.

The two sides also discussed the regional and international situation, including human rights violations in the occupied Kashmir by Indian troops and desecration of Babri Mosque in India, as well as Afghanistan and Bosnia.

The finance ministers of the two countries signed an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation.

UAE Vice President Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid Al Maktum has donated $6 million for the prime minister's flood relief fund. He presented the check for this amount to Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad yesterday.

Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif hosted a banquet in Islamabad last night in honor of the UAE vice president.

Visits Aeronautical Complex

BK0802150693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] The prime minister of the UAE [United Arab Emirates], Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, today visited the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex in Kamra. The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, accompanied the distinguished guest. During the briefi .g, Shaykh Maktum Bin Rashid was informed that the complex has rebuilt engines of Mirage and F-16 and is now planning to upgrade them. The distinguished guest was taken around various sections of the complex. He showed keen interest in the Pakistani- manufactured Mushshak and Shahbaz aircraft and inquired about their performance. He inspected the aircraft manufacturing factory and Mirage rebuild hanger where he also saw a UAE aircraft being overhauled. The complex has so far rebuilt 272 different types of aircraft for PAF [Pakistan Air Force] and friendly states, including UAE.

All Parties Conference Discusses Kashmir

BK0702100393 Islamabad THE NATION in English 7 Feb 93 pp 1,4

[All punctuation as published]

[Text] Lahore—Speaker National Assembly Gauhar Ayub Khan has said that Pakistan should prepare itself for war with India.

Presiding over the second session of All Parties Conference [APC] on Kashmir, convened by Jamaat-i-Islami at a local hotel on Saturday, the Speaker said that about 450,000 troops of India Army were, at present, stationed in held Kashmir. This large Army was consuming major share of Indian defence budget and if the situation was not changed India would soon collapse like USSR. The Soviet military defeat in Afghanistan at the hands of Mojahedin was the outcome of the economic crisis that broke the will of the people, he added. He further said that the 1965 War was initially limited to Kashmir and it was Indian invasion of other areas which spread the war. At that time Kashmiri Mujahideen could not achieve much but the freedom movement gained momentum in 1990 because majority of the Kashmiri Mujahideen were inspired by the defeat of Russians in Afghanistan. Going through the Indian history, the Speaker said that it never remained united except for a short period under Ashoka the Great, and it was divided into 636 princely states before the English imperialists took over the control.

Gauhar Ayub said, "we should gear up our diplomatic and parliamentary efforts in support of Kashmiris and for this purpose he was leading a eight-member delegation including Nusrat Bhutto, Nasim Wali Khan and minority leader Father Rafou Juliu to European community. He further said that a meeting of parliamentarians was also being held in Delhi on April 12 where he would propose to the Indian Government to form a Parliamentary Human Rights committee for Kashmiris so that the atrocities committed against the helpless Kashmiris could get world attention.

He held that India's claim to be the largest democracy in the world was baseless because its social system was based on caste-system.

Chairman Senate Wasim Sajjad has said that being a disputed territory Kashmir is still on United Nation's agenda and big powers of the world should pave the way for the implementation of UN Resolutions which called for granting the people of Kashmir right to self-determination.

He was presiding over the first session of All Parties Conference on Kashmir convened by Jamaat-i-Islami here on Saturday. The Prime Minister's Advisor on political Affair Ch [Chaudhry] Nisar Ali, AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] President Sardar Sikandar Hayat, JUP [Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan] (Niazi) Chief Manlana Abdus Sattar Niazi, former AJK Prime Minster Mumtaz Ahmed Rathore, Jammu Kashmir Liberation League leader Barrister Sultan Mahmood, JUI [Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam] (Sami) Ameer Maulana Samiul Haq, NPP [National People's Party] Secretary General S.M. Zafar, Ammanullah Baloch from Jamhoori Watan Party, PAT [Pakistan Awami Tehrik] Chief Prof Tahirul Qadri and Manlana Fazlur Rehman also spoke in the first session of the conference.

The Chairman Senate maintained that the Kashmir Issue was not only a regional dispute but an issue related to the fate and human rights of 12 million people. Some powers of the world might be against giving Muslims any latitude but they must remember that Muslims were human beings too and their fundamental rights should be protected. All the nations of the world and their leadership should condemn the Indian atrocities in Held Kashmir, genocide of Kashmiris and trampling of human rights in the valley.

Himself condemning the state terrorism unleashed on Kashmiri Muslims, he said that we should contact all the parliaments of the world and their leaders to apprise them about the situation in the Held Valley. He said, "we offer full support to the right to self-determination of Kashmiris and reject the allegations of terrorism against Paksitan. The movement is for the liberation of Held Kashmir and could not be described as terrorism. We will favour any step which will be taken for providing Kashmiris their right to self-determination," he added.

He lamented that compassion and solidarity for fellow Muslims in Held Kashmir has not been should by Muslim leadership of the world. [sentence as published] It was high time that Muslism of world be directly contacted and detailed on Kashmir situation. That could be done through delegations of parliamentarians, politicians and journalists. He said that whatever the nature of the political difference within the country, the nation was united in its stand on Kashmir Issue and there was no difference of opinion in this context.

He requested the APC participants to also ponder upon other problems faced by Pakistan like corruption, ethnicity, unemployment and religious intolerance.

Addressing the conference as the Government Representative, Ch Nisar Ali said that by convening the conference on the Issue Jamaat- i-Islami had done a national service and should be congratulated for the step.

He opined that Kashmir was a national issue and was not one for Jamaat-i-Islami, PPP [Pakistan People's Party], PML [Pakistan Muslim League] or any other party only. Kashmiris in the Held Valley were valiantly struggling against the Indian occupation. The sacrifices rendered by them and the question of Pakistan's integrity call for a joint strategy by us. There could be no two opinions on Kashmir issue.

He maintained that while representing the Government "we are here to get guidance and strength from the view expressed by others. Despite saveral odds the Government had so far raised the Kashmir Issue on various international forums including ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization], OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference], Nam [Nonaligned Movement]. We should guide one another to find ways and means to fight

agianst the forces which had made a united stand against us. The biggest problem on the Kashmir Issue we are facing comes from within the country for the simple reason that the enemy does not want us to remain united. It was a pity that oppressed were being dubbed as terrorists," he asserted.

Ch Nisar described the reaction of Muslim world over atrocities in Kashmir as disappointing. On the other hand whenever any of the Muslim country in the world faced a problem Pakistan was always in the forefront to support that country. Some of the Muslim countries had been supporting India on Kashmir Issue he lamented. He was of the view that joint political parties delegations should visit such countries to apprise them of the real situation and Pakistan's stand on the issue.

Admitting mistakes of the Government, he said the bureaucrats posted in Pakistani embassies would be taken to task if found responsible for any laxity in highlighting the Pakistani point of view on Kashmir. "To activate our embassies to highlight the issue we will welcome any suggestions made by the APC," he said.

Describing the Kashmiri struggle as indigenous, he said "we should raise the issue internationally on the basis of human rights. After all Muslims are also human beings, he said. We should contact international parliaments in this respect," he added.

Speaking on the occasion AJK President Sardar Sikandar Hayat said that Kashmiri sturggle against the forces of occupation was the longest in the history of mankind. It had been on since 1832 when two freedom fighters Shams Ali and Sabz Ali were skinned alive by the Dogra Army.

The speech of Sardar Sikandar Hayat revolved around his repeated assurances that freedom fighters in Kashmir wanted the Valley's accession to Pakistan. He strongly opposed the slogan of independent Kashmir. Kashmiris had been struggling for Islam and Pakistan, he stressed. He suggested that in the Pakistani embassies apart from bureaucrats political people and Kashmiris should also be posted to highlight the Kashmiris' struggle and the Issue. He also proposed setting-up of a permanent Committee of the Parliament on Kashmir withs the representatives of Pakistani and AJK Governments and Opposition parties as well as Armed Forces as its members.

Federal Minister for Religious Affairs, Maulana Abdus Sattar Niazi representing JUP (Niazi) said that Jehad for the liberation of Kashmir was obligatory for Pakistan. It was the responsibility of Pakistan to seek an end to Indian atrocities and plebiscite in Kashmir according to UN Resolutions and should resort to Jehad if the UN failed to implement its own Resolutions on Kashmir.

He opined that able-bodied youth of age 15 to 35 should be given military training for Jehad. The nation put such a pressure on Prime Minister for Jehad that he becomes forced to favour the nation's notion. He urged the nation to press the Prime Minister for Jehad.

Speaking on the occasion Barrister Sultan Mahmood said that to avoid difficulties Pakistan should allow Kashmiris to represent their cause on international forums. He demanded the dissolution of Kashmir Affairs Ministry which, he said, had played a despicable role since its inception. He advocated recognition of Independent Azad Jammu Kashmir Government.

Addressing the ACP JUI (Sami) Chief Manlana Samiul Haq said that the solution to the Kashmir problem lay in Jehad. The Muslims should not be apologetic while resorting to Jehad otherwise genocide and suppression of Muslims in Kashmir, Bosnia and Palestine would never end. He termed United Nations and USA responsible for the terrorism against Muslims of the world. They had double standards for Muslims and non Muslims, he said.

He was of the view that Pakistani people should themselves take up the Kashmir Issue and go for Jehad as the rulers were busy in the implementation of American New World Order. Even if we do not resort to Jehad America will brand us a terrorist state anyway," he warned. Describing America as international goonda [bandit], he said that the United States was blatantly overlooking terrorism against Muslim in Bosnia, Kashmir and Palestine.

Former AJK Prime Minister Mumtaz Rathore said, "we should all work for the right to self-determination of the Kashmir Muslims without raising conflicting slogans. The undue interference of Pakistani Government in the affairs of the AJK Government bred the slogan of independent Kashmir.

Representing the NPP at the Conference S. M. Zafar said that accepting the third option on Kashmir would be liable to interference in Indian internal affairs. He said that Kashmir issue could only be resolved by giving the Kashmiri people their right to self-determination. Kashmiri struggle was enough proof that Kashmir people did not want to live under Indian occupation, he concluded.

Jamboori Wattan Party's Amanullah Baloch criticised the slogan of Kashmir Banay ga [will become] Pakistan and favoured the Kashmiris right to self-determination.

Asif Ali Zardari Released on Bail in Karachi

BK0602144993 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] In Karachi, Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, MNA [member of National Assembly], was released on bail this evening. He was earlier granted bail in the Unnar Case by retired Justice Fakhruddin H. Sheikh, judge of the Suppression of Terrorist Activities Court.